An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي، Bomb explodes in downtown Baghdad

NICOSIA (AP) — A carbomb exploded on Monday outside the Ishtar Sheraton hotel in Baghdad, Cable News Network said. The report, from a journalist in Baghdad, said an ambulance raced from the scene with its siren on, but there was no immediate word on injuries. "Some cars were burned," a hotel operator told the Associated Press in Nicosia. "No one is injured. All the people are safe," he said before the line was cut. Telephone connections between Baghdad and the outside world have been erratic since Iraq's communications facilities were largely destroyed during the Gulf war. CNN said the late afternoon explosion occured near a United Nations vehicle, and authorities cordoned off the area and a United Nations vehicle, and authorities cordoned off the area and prevented reporters from entering. The Sheraton is across the street from the Palestine Hotel, the base for U.N. inspectors during their search for Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Incidents of violence such as car bombings are rare in Baghdad, where security forces are omnipresent. Although many government buildings and other military targets in the Iraqi capital were badly damaged by allied bombing during the war, the area around the Sheraton was spared.

Number 4894

AMMAN TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1991, JUMADEH AL AKHERA 25, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

#### th wer semists disrupt nds of basselni speech

charches CUPIED JERUSALEM reping la pi - Islamic fundamentalists eping la pi — Islamic fundamentalists war, was used to Arab-Israeli peace ame. Polic & hurled rocks and bottles at ered the kestinian leader Faisal Al Hustios of Aria Monday as he spoke in dox Cathoport of negotiations, Arab & Borogices said. Mr. Husseini, a top illa contraction of Palestinian negotiators. illa ente jaor to Palestinian negotiators him in the peace talks, was addressing he pane if 1,500 residents of the occu-ind policy in West Bank town of Tulkarm in Policy in Palestinians from the Police mas movement began chant-say if the Pown with the traitors." le envelopme 70 members of Harnas tess and rike chairs and ripped out light here it have no hurl at Mr. Husseini en and the with rocks and bottles.
Inch Monthson Demeri, a Palestinian Vikenio a maist attending the speech. the head "it was obvious they aimed iche was war Husseini Mr. Husseini king of the unharmed and escorted out hocked half by supporters, but "one locals were injured in the le church part, Arab sources said.

nd the withodox Jews desecrate er gens at the mosaic

are return

bishop igt AVIV (R) - Ultramodox Jews opposed to exubed a rare 5th century Byzane mosaic with irremovable ck paint, the Israeli antiquities hority said Monday. The aunity, excavating an Armenian-P) - Me cek burial site in Arab East

Beam besalem, said vandals removed

ear-old environment protecting the mosaic and student attered paint over it. On the World Wisaic are inscriptions about Miss livist. "The authority supposes st 78 other was work of extremist Jewish in 2008/ra-orthodox groups who ghi wat pose the excavation at this ists, but we its statement said; adding come mr. t. altra-orthodox Jews had to is from leatened to vanidation the site. ery printe is doubtful whether it will be and I wish sable to remove the paint withworld pearl damaging the rare mosaic,"

t rumer que statement added. Leanne lit. ner-up watombs hurled at Diana Rairo liquor shop

sica Sanda: Miss MEIRO (R) - Two men ben. 19. Tribed to be Muslim militants her will led petrol bombs Monday at a or available for shop owned by an Egypplays plays Christian, security sources voiled in The sources said no one was ill recon in the men got away. The er vers op in Cairo's denselyork 2nd Foulated Shubra area was slightid. pages damaged. Local people helped coulous fuer Faris Tadros, 62, put out fane Idea fire. Suspected Muslim fun-The Amentalists stabbed a beer ven-, 24, wer fit to death in the southern and supptian town of Assiut in Octowell a police sources said the milipresent its had warned the vendor not ated in Locateli beer and apparently killed a when he refused to comply the their demands.

#### is 8 Got 191 worst year n record for cholera

S(R)—ENEVA (R) — This year was so worst on record for the discrete Burn are cholers with more than half million new cases reported, the nday ist majority of them in Latin Actics aterica, the World Health rea Bernsation (WHO) said Mon-as the in. The figure, which includes ion. The least 300,000 cases from a sudsupported epidemic in Peru, compares British in a previous high of some was not aith body in 1971. Cholera and the mack Latin America for the first ations and this century in January and Bes Ided up affecting almost The 0,000 people in 13 countries rided continent, WHO said who a statement. Africa, with some Force 5,000 cases, was the next worst are const and also suffered the highest ndication ortality rate.

#### colded ush starts 12-day ar East trip

(30) MP) — President Bush (10125) in sbarked for Australia and Asia in product for Australia and Asia American goods, in the strain in the s ce trade is a two-way street." we want to put people to work ere at home, we've got to ex-Activated and to open markets," president said as he boarded and to open markets," president said as he boarded and to open markets, because of president said as he boarded and to open markets, and to open markets, "force One for the journey to with the maions. Although initially mind to pay make a goodwill tour, the major of pays mission was recast as the nation of as Mr. Bush's approval rational of the president of the pres

# **House endorses**

### 92 budget 45-20 Sharif Zeid pledges close cooperation with Parliament Jardaneh emphasises need to adhere to seven-year programme

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower tional Monetary Fund (IMF) or because they thought it would bring dorsed the government's 1992 draft budget without any significant amendment. The vote was 45 in favour out of a total of 65 deputies of the 80-member House present during the session.

The vote was taken Monday evening, after two days of debate on the House floor following the submission to the deputies of the findings of a review of the budget by the House Finance Commit-

Most of the deputies who spoke focused on the rising unemployment and the need to improve the efficiency of public administration as well as the needs of their respective constituencies such as roads, schools, hospitals and other government facilities and help for farmers.

The JD 1.27 billion budget projects a deficit of JD 107 million, compared to JD 351 million in 1991. The government hopes to cover it through

foreign aid and borrowing. Objections to the budget came from some deputies, either because of ideological objections to the Interna-

deadliest in six years, ripped

The wounded included former

Prime Minister Shafik Wazzan.

who was passing through the area

in his bulletproof car. Police said

Mr. Wazzan was hospitalised and

Military examining magistrate

Nadim Tarabieh said 60 people

were treated and discharged and

60 others remained in hospital

It was the bloodiest car bomb-

ing since June 18, 1985 when a car

parked outside a popular ice

cream parlour in Lebanon's

northern port of Tripoli ex-

ploded, killing 60 people and

Many of the casualties in Mon-

day's blast were women and chil-

dren, some trapped screaming on

halconies in a burning apartment

block as gas canisters exploded

Among the injured was a month-old, blood-covered baby

girl. The Voice of the People

wounding 110 others.

around them.

killed and 120 wounded.

later discharged.

cause they thought it would bring higher prices and possibly social un-

Many officials expect the government will soon raise the price of high-octane petrol, electricity, fuel oil, water, long-distance telephone calls, with those on high incomes paying the bulk of most increases.

Addressing the House, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker pledged to work more closely with the legislative authority and to seek help from the Economic Consultative Council (ECC) in matters related to medium-term planning of various

The prime minister said Jordan had survived two crucial crises - the decline in the value of the Jordanian dinar in 1988 and the Gulf crisis which severely damaged the Kingdom's eco-

He said the government will seek the expert opinion and advice from the ECC on decisions related to the national economy and the Kingdom's monetary and financial affairs.

Sharif Zeid said the government welcomed the views of all the deputies and pledged to seek closer cooperation and constant consulta-

busy Beirut neighbourhood

through a densely populated Syrian soldiers dug through rush hour, only about 50 metres neighbourhood Monday. Police rubble with their hands for two from a Syrian army checkpoint.

said at least 20 to 30 people were hours to reach charred bodies in a "I must have walked right past

shoe shop and basement snack

Cries of panic mixed with the

wailing sirens of ambulances as

smoke billowed along streets.

Soldiers fired into the air to clear

the way and pushed back hyster-

ical men and women trying to

A Mercedes packed with ex-

plosives blew up on a corner at a

narrow junction in the busy Al

Basta district packed with the

The blast heavily damaged five

buildings and wrecked about 15

apartments and two dozen cars.

A butchery, a bakery and a small

supermarket were gutted by the

Streets were blocked by top-

Hospitals, which made radio

appeals for blood donations, said

The car, packed with what one

15 people were killed and 114

pled power lines and poles, debris

Carbomb kills 20 to 30 in

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A radio station appealed for her

powerful carbomb, Lebanon's parents for other relatives to col-

lect the child.

reach the scene.

new year shoppers.

explosion and fires.

and burning cars.

were wounded.

tion with the House in all matters with a view to widening participation. in decision-making.

The government will submit to the House its socio-economic plan based on sectoral and regional plans which would target all areas, with particular attention on the less developed regions and to agriculture and industry, Sharif Zeid said.

The prime minister said that no overnight solutions could be found for unemployment and poverty. He said these issues as well as foreign debts are of high priority for the government and pledged to continue to exert serious efforts to seek solu-

He said unemployment in Jordan was one of the results of the low number of income-generating pro-jects compared with the high number of jobseckers and that many Jordanians refuse to take up blue-collar jobs. In addition, he said, Jordan is also grappling with the problem of the hundreds of thousands of expatriates who have returned to the Kingdom in the wake of the Gulf crisis. The education system has not yet been geared to meet the needs of the

police expert said was about 100 kilogrammes of explosives, went

off at the height of the morning

rush hour, only about 50 metres

it. I reached the apartment when

the pressure of the blast smashed

in the windows and knocked me

over," said Mohammad Salman.

adding that he had only returned

from Australia to visit his parents

people. I dared come back as I

thought the war was over. It

isn't," said the 24-year-old stu-

dent, adding that he would leave

metres from a school, which had

its windows blown in. Residents

said casualties would have been

much higher but it was closed for

plastered with peeling posters of the late Iranian leader Ayatollah

Ruhollah Khomeini, is a stron-

ghold of Lebanon's pro-Iranian

(Continued on page 2)

The bombing was a severe

Hizbollah (Party of God).

The area, with narrow streets

Christmas and the new year.

The car was parked about 25

Lebanon as soon as possible.

"This is a residential area. Poor

for the new year.

#### King receives Iranian message, briefs envoy on peace process portant role as a key player in the AMMAN (J.T.) - His Majesty sein briefed Mr. Mohajirani on

King Hussein received at the Royal Court Monday Atallah Mohajirani, an assistant in parliamentary and legal affairs to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, and an accompanying

His Majesty King Hussein Monday receives Atallah

Mohajirani, an assistant in legal and partiamentary

Mr. Mohajirani, who arrived in Amman Sunday, conveyed to King Hussein the greetings of Mr. Rafsanjani and delivered a message from the Iranian president dealing with bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation between the two countries.

King Hussein and the Iranian official also exchanged views on changes in the international arena and their impact on the region in particular and on Third World countries in general. King Hus-

the Middle East peace process and the rituation in the region. The audience was attended by the chief of the Royal Court and the King's advisor.

The visit of Mr. Mohajirani, the first Iranian visitor of this rank since at least the early 1980s, reflects an upturn in relations between Amman and Tehran. They restored diplomatic ties earlier this year after a decade.

Although the two countries disagree on Middle East peace talks, both agree that outside powers should have no role in Gulf security now that the Gulf war has

"We would like to improve our ties with Iran because of its imregion," a senior government official told Renters. "We are suffering from the

affairs to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani

post-Gulf war political isolation and many states in the area and the world which were once anti-Iran are now opening up to Tehran," he added. Iran and Jordan cut ties shortly

after the start of the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war Jordan, like Iran, remained

officially neutral in the war over Kuwait earlier this year.

Jordan and Iran reopened embassies in each other's capitals in 1990. Iran, with a population of over 55 million people, has become a new market for Jordanian fertilisers, phosphates and electrical appliances.

## Algerian secular parties pin hopes on absent voters

lar parties are clinging to the hope that five million Algerians who abstained in the first round of the general election will reverse the Muslim fundamentalist tide in a second ballot.

"Don't panic," urged Socialist Forces Front (FFS) chief Hocine Ait Ahmad, whose party won 20 of the 206 seats for which provisional results have been declared in Algeria's first free parliamentary election.

"For us the point of no return has not yet been reached..." he told a news conference. Campaigning starts next Satur-

day for the second round on Jan. 16 between the two leading candidates in seats where none gained 50 per cent of the vote. Only three parties won seats

outright, out of 49 which took part in Thursday's poll. Provisional results gave the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). which is dedicated to changing

Algeria into an Islamic state, 167 seats in the 430-seat parliament. Leading FIS member Abdul Kader Moghni told the French daily Liberation the FIS would

CAIRO (AP) — Lebanon will not attend multilateral Middle

East peace talks without an

Israeli commitment to vacate

southern Lebanon and release

mic cooperation.

ALGIERS (R) — Stunned secudemand freedom for its jailed seized control of over half the lar parties are clinging to the leaders and name detained Presimunicipalities. dent Abassi Madani as prime

Asked what the FIS would do

after the second round, Mr. Moghni said: "We will start by demanding the release of our imprisoned brothers, particularly Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj. Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadi have been detained since clashes in June between FIS militants and

security forces. The FIS has at least 171 candi-

dates in the second ballot, competing mainly against 158 from the National Liberation Front (FLN). The FLN, which ruled a one-party state from independence in 1962, won just 16 seats outright

THe FFS has at least 13 seats in the runofff.

Mr. Ait Ahmad called for a national march in Algiers on Thursday to "save democracy," saying the FIS advance was only

He pointed out that the FIS had won around three million votes compared to five million at local elections in 1990 when it

municipalities.

At a news conference on Sunday, provisional FIS leader Abdul Kader Hachani called for reconciliation with FIS opponents and said the party would respect international commitments and abide by the constitution.

He also said the FIS might leave for later its demand for early presidential elections.

Few Western diplomats believe the FIS will stumble at the second round, saying it is not a question of whether it gains a majority in parliament but how big this will

Mr. Moghni, himself elected in the first round, said the FIS wanted to change the constitution, which makes the foreign and defence ministries directly dependent on the president.

"Islam does not recognise the presidential regime. It only recognises the People's Assembly, which must take every decision, starting with the constitution." he told Liberation.

### Israeli settlers open fire in W.Bank village

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) - Armed Jewish settlers opened fire in a West Bank village, warning Palestinians nothing would stop them from 'avenging" Palestinian attacks. A 30-car convoy of settlers drove through towns and villages in the Nablus area during the

The settlers opened fire in Anabta when villagers pelted them with stones. No one was burt. In another village, Burka, they chanted warnings until Israeli troops forced them to

The settlers then drove to the home of Defence Minister Moshe Arens to demand government ac-

The 100,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank strip live in fortified enclaves among 1.75 million

The settlers have powerful allies in the hardline coalition of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir but insist the government has not done enough to protect them. As protesters chanted "no

security here, no security here," outside Mr. Arens's suburban Tei Aviv house, Rabbi Avraham Zuriel, one of their leaders, told

"We took a number of actions in the villages to show the residents this is the last time we come to speak with them. If we are forced to come again, we will not

come just to talk." Mr. Arens told reporters earher he believed there were only a small number of Jewish troublemakers in the occupied territories. He promised lawbreakers

would be punished. "I can understand the mood of the settlers in (the West Bank), Mr. Arens said, but he added:

'Whoever violates the law will be brought to justice." Israeli army and police chiefs are worried by the increasing militancy of settlers who have

gone on rampages against Palestinians and taken over houses in Arab villages. Last week the government

gave settlers the green light to begin setting up civil guards to perform police duties. Peace activists fear the settlers,

opposed to Middle East peace efforts, will exploit these new powers and take the law into their

The United States, which wants Israel to trade land for peace and stop building settlements in the occupied territories. has urged the government to restrain settlers.

But Mr. Shamir's government insists Israel will never cede an inch of the occupied lands.

The finance ministry has promised right-wing parties more money for Jewish settlements in the occupied territories in an effort to win right-wing backing for the 1992 budget, newspapers The Tehiya and Moledet par-

(Continued on page 2)

### Iraqi premier challenges opposition to launch coup BAGHDAD (R) - Iraq's prime attention to talk of a coup in the

minister has challenged opposition figures to carry out threats to launch a coup against President Saddam Hussein.

"Let them come if they are courageous enough to try their luck," Prime Minister Mohammad Hamza Al Zubaidi said Monday when asked about threats to topple the Iraqi leader. The prime minister was speaking to reporters at the opening of a museum repaired after being

damaged during the Gulf war. Exiled opposition leaders and Iraqi Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani have repeatedly called for the overthrow of President Saddam, whose army crushed rebellions in the Shiite south and Kurdish

north after the Gulf war. Iraqi Shiite opposition leader Ayatollah Mohammad Baqer Al Hakim last week invited leading dissidents to Syria to discuss ousting the Saddam government.

The government retains such a tight grip on the military that Baghdad-based diplomats discount the possibility of an army

revolt against him. But the president and the official press have devoted unusual past two weeks.

"The so-called 'Iraqi democrats' are warning us of torture, burning of our bodies and setting us on fire alive," President Saddam's Press Secretary Abdul-Jabbar Mohsen wrote this week in the Babil newspaper.

"But we have no reason to fear as long as God is our guardian and the people are led by the hero of the Arabs," he said. President Saddam himself in a recent one-hour address on television joked with his officers about rumours of a coup, saving he

would oblige the West by helping them lead one. Iraq is believed to have stepped up searches for weapons recently in cities including Baghdad and the traditionally-stable northern

city of Mosul. A Baghdad school in a Shitte area was shut down last week and children sent home for the day while troops searched for weapons hoarded after the Gulf

war, residents said Travellers crossing into Kurdistan from Mosul this week said checkpoints and exhaustive house-to-house searches have increased dramatically over the past few days. A U.N. source in Baghdad said on Monday that Iraqi soldiers had begun strictly enforcing checks at Faida, north of Mosul.

The checkpoints are to prevent weapons from going south and food and fuel from going north under Baghdad's two-month-old blockade of autonomy-seeking Iraqi Kurdistan.

At another checkpoint 15 kilometres north of Mosul last week, armed soldiers searched a kilometre-long line of cars. Mr. Zubaidi repeated the Iraqi

government's denial that Baghdad was blockading the north but indicated that Baghdad was pressuring the restive Kurds. "We have not imposed a block-

ade on northern Iraq... but in the light of the circumstances Iraq is passing through and the actions of some irresponsible elements in the area, certainly then we have to protect our people."
"We are ready," he said,

"when things are stable and everyone goes back to his senses. We are ready to cooperate with all good people.'

Lebanon might not attend multilateral talks Washington. Those discussions resume in Washington on Jan. 7. "Lebanon has not yet agreed to attend the third phase of the talks," Mr. Hamadi told repor-

Lebanese prisoners, a visiting cabinet minister said Monday. "We are not in a position to Marwan Hamadi, Lebanon's fidiscuss with Israel economic nance minister, said only under cooperation before making sure tangibly that Israel will withdraw such conditions would discussions be possible with Israel on econofrom Lebanese lands and will release Lebanese hostages.' Multilateral talks to which 32

He also said Lebanon will sign nations have been invited are to no peace agreement with Israel be in Moscow in late January, unless the Jewish state honours continuing a peace process spon-U.N. resolutions by abandoning sored by the United States and its self-declared "security zone" the former Soviet Union. Russia in southern Lebanon and returnstepped into the equation when ing all other occupied territories the Soviet Union disintegrated, to their Arab owners. and Russian President Boris Yeltsin is hosting the talks.

The Syrians and Palestinians have also said they will not attend Lebanese, Syrians, Jordanians and Palestinians already have the 32-nation multilaterals, scheheld two inconclusive rounds of duled to resume in Moscow on bilateral talks with separate Jan. 28, unless progress is made Israeli delegations, in Madrid and on the next bilateral round.

Israeli allies attacked

Lebanese resistance fighters ambushed a patrol of the Israelibacked South Lebanon Army (SLA) early Monday, killing a militiaman and wounding two others, security sources said.

The patrol was entering the southern village of Rshaf inside the "security zone" before dawn when it was attacked by the guerrillas, said one of the sources.

"There was a brief exchange of fire. One SLA militiaman was killed and two were wounded," said the source, speaking on condition of anonymity. "No post dition of anonymity. was attacked."

A statement released earlier in Beirut by the Islamic Resistance had claimed the guerrillas destroyed an SLA post in Rshaf, killing all the militiamen manning

Lebanese security sources said

another roadside bomb exploded as SLA militiamen passed Monday morning in the village of Kfar Houneh on the edge of the "security zone." There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Israeli gunners on hills overlooking the area retaliated by shelling the villages of Ain Al Tineh and Maidoun, the sources said. Both are strongholds of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of

Witnesses said about 40 shells hit the villages. Some fell about 500 metres short of a Lebanese

army post. Hizbollah guerrillas have stepped up raids on Israeli troops and the 3,000-strong SLA in the "security zone" to show its opposition to the Arab-Israeli ece talks.

About 1,000 Israeli soldiers and the SLA patrol the 15kilometre deep zone, set up by Israel in 1985.

21/23 MASOARD AIR FORCE ONE

aid worker added. "They are

The Horn of Africa nation has

been plunged into anarchy since

guerrillas ousted dictator Mohammad Siad Barre last Janu-

ary and then turned to fighting

U.N. proposals include the

creation of neutral zones in the

city such as hospitals, the port

and airport as well as "peace

corridors" that would allow food

Two months ago the U.N. said

about 4.5 million people out of a

total population of around six

million faced famine. Deaths

would increase if security could

not be restored to allow emergen-

"If the food situation is not

solved in Mogadishu then the

fighting will not stop," an official

of the International Committee

of the Red Cross told Reuters.

Clash in north

Fighting broke out Monday in

a Red Sea port in secessionist

northern Somalia, and a United

Nations official said the clash

appeared to be between two army

the barracks and the soldiers

there refused to leave," said the

official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "We don't know

whether it was supposed to be a

routine rotation or the units sup-

ported different political fac-

The official had no information

on casualties in the fighting in the port of Berbera and said all relief

workers had been told to stay

Northern Somalia, which is

controlled by the Somali National

Movement, seceded from south-

ern Somalia in May and calls

itself the Somaliland republic.

The situation has generally been

The Somali National Move-

ment, which draws most of its

support from the northern Isaak

clan, took up arms in 1983 and is

the oldest of the insurgent groups that fought to oust Mr. Siad

The Somaliland republic's

boundaries are those of the for-

mer British Somaliland - a pro-

tectorate that joined with the

Italian Somaliland in 1960 to

The secessionist government

with the Soviets, the military aid to put down an uprising against

"pipeline" between Pakistan and the communist regime in Kabul

has been seeking international

Afghanistan is to be cut off by

Jan. 1. Pakistan has been the rebel

headquarters and transit point for

As for the Russian side, one

official said, "there has been a

significant fall off in their assist-

ance" in the weeks preceding the

Leaders of the rebel movement

have been told that Russian fuel

deliveries to the leftist govern-

ment in Kabul also will be sus-

pended even though that step is

not required under the Septem-

The fate of Afghanistan was

once a major security concern to

Moscow but that has all changed

now since the Soviet Union has

been replaced by the common-

The main Russian concern in

Afghanistan nowadays is to

obtain an accounting for the 300

Twelve years ago last Friday

then-President Leonid Brezhnev

dispatched what was to become a

force of more than 100,000 troops

estimated soldiers missing.

wealth of independent states.

U.S. aid deliveries for years.

involvement in Afghanistan

deadline.

ber agreement.

peaceful.

"We understand a unit went to

to cross battle lines.

cy food distribution.

literally fighting over it.'

each other.

Beirut bon

blow to a renewed to

security in Lebanon.

Lebanon since 15 year war ended in October

with the ousting of rebe

Michel Aoun by Sy

Explosives packed

wrecked the administrate

at the American University

Beirut on Nov. 8, killing tor. There was no claim sponsibility for that h

Israeli agents were repi have been behind it.

Interior Minister Sam

told reporters at the s

Monday's blast that is

tions would begin immed

track down the culprit.

find him, but I promise h

The Syrian army,

wrested the barracks fr

Hizbollah in 1987, ha

abandoned the barracks

Where is the government

what happened to the p

that peace has finally bro in Lebanon?" sobbed M

Chehab, 47, whose son

was injured in the blast.

"One becomes disguste ing in such a place," he

Animals elsewhere are

Hospitals blared radio

for blood conations as-

workers sifted through the

three year-old girl, clut

piece of chocolate in he

which was covered with

es. She was dug out of the in a state of shock.

ties, members of Mr. S

coalition, have threatened

against the budget when i

before parliament if refe

Their demands took

weight following the res

of Agriculture Minister

Eitan, which weakened l

mir's majority from 66

the 120-member Knesset

The Dec. 31, deadline

sing the budget is also be

up by demands from

parties. If Mr. Shamir fai

a majority vote for the be

will probably have to n

The daily Haaretz that Finance Minister

Modai agreed to pay an e

million shekels (\$326 million additional 5,000 house

in the occupied territo

The increase means tw

of government-sponsore

ing would be built in the of West Bank and Gaz Str

confirmed the Tehij

Moledet parties had re

extra funding for settleme

declined to comment on w

Dedi Zucker, lawmah

He said the parties had

ded 5,000 additional units

in the occupied territori

year. The finance minist spoken in the past of 3,000-4,000 in 1992.

Mr. Zucker said the ago

will "severely endang chances of getting the guarantees from the

States and will prove to the

what the Shamir gove

really means when it says

Other Flights (Termin)

MARKET PRICE

the Citizen's Rights Mo which opposes the settle said the agreement was si

worked out.

A finance ministry spo

extra funds.

Settlers

open fire

Among the survivors

much better."

"Is this a new year

"We don't know when

Lebanese troops.

government

### OAU, U.N. start peace efforts in Somalia

NAIROBI (R) — The Organisa-tion of African Unity (OAU) wants to send a special delegation to the Somali capital Mogadishu to try to persuade warring fac-tions there to end six weeks of. fierce clan battles, it said Mon-

"The objective of the mission is ... to explore possibilities of a ceasefire in Mogadishu so as to pave the war for a dialogue and peaceful resolution to the tragic conflict in Somalia," said an OAU statement released in Nairobi.

An ethnic power struggle between rival warlords Mohammad Farah Aideed and Ali Mahdi Mohammad has killed and wounded an estimated 20,000 people since Nov. 17, according to the United Nations.

Earlier this month, OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmad Salim broke the African body's 11-month silence on the carnage in Somalia, offering to mediate in peace talks and adding that a peace-keeping force could be sent in if invited.

The OAU statement said that "one of the parties" had said it would receive the delegation and that it was still waiting to hear from the other one.

OAU officials refused to give further details but diplomatic sources said General Aideed had rejected the OAU proposal.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar also said last week he was sending help to Mogadishu.

Special U.N. emissary James Jonah was scheduled to fly into the city of Friday to meet Gen. Aideed and Mr. Ali Mahdi to discuss the revival of desperatelyneeded relief operations that have been disrupted by fighting.

A ceasefire between the rival clan fighters was set to begin later on Monday. But several truces have already been broken. Aid workers in contact by

satellite telephone with the Indian Ocean port city said house-tohouse gun battles were still raping but the heavy mortar bombardments had died down. An estimated 100,000 civilians

have fled the city to escape fighting and look for food in surrounding rural areas. About 8,000 tonnes of relief

food have been stranded for two months in the port's docks where a faction in control of the area has form the country Somalia. refused to release it. an aid work-

"Food is a kind of power," the recognition,

WASHINGTON (AP) — The

12-year conflict in Afghanistan

enters a new phase Wednesday

with the formal end of all U.S.

and Soviet military involvement

after years of each side support-

The deadline was set in

September by the Bush adminis-

tration and leaders of the former

Soviet Union. U.S. officials are

confident that both sides will

Nonetheless, there is no early end

to the fighting in sight as the

leftist government in Kabul and

the anti-communist rebel move-

ment have yet to open peace talks

despite intensive United Nations

An estimated 1.5 million have

been killed in the war, with more

than three million maimed or

wounded and five million dis-

placed to exile in Pakistan and

Iran. One in every three refugees

identified, said the last of the

U.S. deliveries to the rebels ar-

rived in Pakistan sometime in

October. Under the agreement

U.S. officials, asking not to be

worldwide is an Afghan.

adhere to the agreement.

ing rival factions.

mediation efforts.

### Border talks with Oman spark row in Yemen

ADEN, Yemen (R) - A row has broken out in Yemen over suspicions that the government is about to sign away 15,000 square kilometres of territory to neighbouring Oman before a new constitution takes full effect.

Political parties and organisations in the southeastern border province of Al Mahra said in a joint statement last week a draft border agreement included the territorial concession.

"We hold the leadership responsible for the results if the opinion of the province's people is not considered," it added.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh said earlier this month the two countries would sign a formal border demarcation agreement before the end of this year.

But the government denies any deal is ready for signing.

A Foreign Ministry official told

Reuters Monday that the negotiations with Oman had not ended. Yemeni-Omani talks on demarcating the borders will resume early next year." he added.

One of the main opposition parties, the Yemeni Unionist Party, has attacked the alleged border agreement on the grounds that the government is only tran-

sitional. It is operating under a constitution drawn up when North and South Yemen united in a single state in May 1990. The constitution does not take full effect until after general elections in November 1992.

The territory in question is in what used to be South Yemen, while the unified state is dominated by the more populous

The Yemeni Unionist Party said the present government did not have the constitutional right to decide on matters of national sovereignty.

"The present authority . bears full responsibility for the consequences (such as) the squandering of rights or national sovereignty," it said in a state-The party said the government

should publish details of the border talks with Oman so that people would be able to say what they thought of any agreement. South Yemen, which was the Arab World's only Marxist state, backed separatist guerrillas across the border in southern

Oman during the 1960s and

that was installed in April 1978.

The last of the Soviet troops were

withdrawn from Afghanistan in

The Afghan issue was one of

many during the .1980's that

brought the United States and the

Soviet Union into an increasingly

bitter rivalry. President Jimmy

Carter authorised a covert opera-

tion to aid the Afghan rebels.

and Saudi Arabia are believed

to be sending weaponry

into Afghanistan, ignoring U.S.

been an increasing tendency

among rival factions of the rebel

movement to fight one another in

The main reason peace talks

have not begun is that the rebels

have refused talks with repre-

sentatives of Afghan President

Najibullah. As U.S. officials see

it, the peace process can make

headway only when all outside

military assistance to the various

a bid for military supremacy.

Aggravating the situation has

appeals for a cutoff.

Nations such as Iran, Pakistan

February 1989.

# Hashish, heroin seized Deadline brings end to military in Lebanon drug haul

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Dealers offer Israel sophisticated weapons

TEL AVIV (AP) - Arms dealers fi are former Soviet Union

are offering Israel weapons traditionally sold to Arab countries, including advanced warplanes, a newspaper reported Monday. The

Haaretz daily wrote that the "surprising offers" include weapons

Israel once lacked any information about, those considered top

secret and supplied only to elite Red Army units. Among the items

on the list are advance MiG-29 fighter planes supplied to Syria and

an advanced ground-to-air radar missile system, the newspaper

said. The defence ministry declined comment on the report. Israel

could use some weapons for intelligence purposes but has little

operational need for them since it is well-equipped with advance

U.S.-made armaments, the Haaretz daily wrote. The uncertainty

surrounding the military industries in the former Soviet Union, due

to the economic and political upheaval in the newly independent

republics is another deterrent for purchasing these weapons, the

paper said. The dealers are offering unusually low prices compared

to similar Western-made weapons systems, but also insist on being

paid in cash, Haaretz said. "It is possible theoretically to purchase

Soviet arms systems for intelligence reasons only, in order to study

them and be able to develop counter-defence systems," reporter

Reuven Pedhatzur, the newspaper's military correspondent, wrote.

NICOSIA (R) - Iran, which angered Kabul last month by

air-dropping food in central Afghanistan, said on Monday it

planned further relief operations for hungry Afghans. Seifollah

Vahid-Dastjerdi, head of Iran's Red Crescent society, said Tehran

would send planes as soon as Islamabad agreed to its request for

permission to airlift supplies to Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Vahid

Dastjerdi, quoted by the official Iranian news agency IRNA, said

Iran planned to send relief supplies to Afghanistan but did not

elaborate. Last month an Iranian transport plane dropped food

over the Afghan city of Damiyan in an attempt to prevent an

exodus of tribesmen from the central Hazarajat region where there

are severe shortages. A week later the Afghan foreign ministry

issued a statement warning that no unauthorised aircraft would be

allowed to enter Afghanistan's airspace. It said no country had a

right to carry out relief operations in Afghanistan without Kabul's

permission. About five million refugees from the civil war in

Palestinians recognise former Soviet republics

TUNIS (AP) - The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on

Sunday officially recognised the 15 republics of the former Soviet

Union as independent states. The PLO's decision-making Execu-

tive Committee called for the new states to take up an active role in

the Middle East peace process, according to the Palestinian news agency WAFA. The WAFA communique expressed hope the new

states can "overcome their difficulties and be able to contribute to

international stability." The Soviet Union was the official co-

sponsor, with the United States, of historic Middle East peace talks

that opened in Madrid in October and continued last month in

KUWAIT (R) - Two Americans who disappeared on the Kuwaiti

frontier more than three weeks ago are being held in Iraq, the U.S.

embassy said Monday. An embassy spokesman refused to give the

names, occupations or any other details of the men who vanished

on Dec. 4. The confirmation that they were held in Iraq was the

first public comment on their fate since they vanished on Dec. 4.

Iraq has made no mention of their detention. American diplomats

were first alerted to the disappearance when one of the men's

friends telephoned the embassy to say the two had not returned

from a trip to the border. An embassy spokesman said on Dec. 8

Two Americans said held in Irag

Afghanistan live in Iran and Pakistan.

Iran plans more Afghan relief flights

BEIRUT (AP) — Police on Sun-day seized 700 kilogrammes of hashish and 20 kilogrammes of heroin in major haul that signalled a new effort to throttle one of the world's main sources of

that the men were on a business trip.

rosli estimated the street value of the drugs seized at \$3.5 million. He gave no details of the opera-

But a police spokesman, who could not be named in line with standing regulations, said an army soldier, Elie Najjar, was arrested in the operation during which there was a brief exchange

"This was the biggest amount of heroin ever seized in Lebanon," said the spokesman.

He said police raided Mr. Najjar's hideout in a Christian neighbourhood of Beirut as he was readying the narcotics for shipment to the United States and the Netherlands.

He had most of the drugs concealed in six barrels, said the policeman.

Mr. Najjar tried to evade arrest by engaging the policemen in a shootout, but they overwhelmed

him. The spokesman reported no casualties.

He said Mr. Najjar had been under police surveillance for some time.

On Saturday, customs officers at Beirut airport arrested two Police chief Mohammad Kob-, men trying to smuggle 865 grammes of heroin to Canada and Australia. Lebanon is one of the world's

primary sources of hashish. It produces 700-800 tonnes of the drug a year. During the civil war years, several heroin processing plants were established in the Syrian troops, in Lebanon to

help the government restore law and order after 16 years of war, have been destroying hashish plantations in east Lebanon.

A few months ago, Syrian tanks, trucks, bulldozers and armoured personnel carriers were seen driving through the fields of the Bekaa Valley, trashing hun-dreds of acres of hashish planta-

Also, Syrian authorities have reported seizing hundreds of kilogrammes of hashish, smuggled from Lebanon into Syria for export to the Gulf.

### Kuwaiti opposition aims for democracy in 1992

KUWAIT (R) — Opposition leaders said Monday 1992 would be the year of political confrontation with the government over democracy in Kuwait.

The first free elections for the National Assembly in seven years are due next October. They were promised by the emir. Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, after the U.S.-led allies liberated Kuwait from seven months of Iraqi occupation in February.

"The year 1992 is the year of confrontation for democracy, Ahmad Al Dayeen, a leader of the liberal Kuwait Democratic Forum (KDF), told Reuters. "The elections are a chance for an offensive for democracy." "The main concern in Kuwait

cracy and the release of the freedoms of press and speech," said KDF chief Abdullah Al Nibari. Although a monarchy controlled by the Sabah family, Kuwait has had a lively parliament for

ence in 1961. "The fight next year is a fight for the protection of the constitution ... and its reimplementation which would lead to the reactivation of the legislative bodies," Mr. Nibari said.

most of the time since independ-

The ruling family wanted to preserve its privileges and remain above the law, both unconstitutional and unacceptable to Khrwaitis, he said. The opposition wanted social,

educational and administrative reforms and implementation of the constitution as well as lifting of censorship.

Mr. Dayeen said the opposi-tion did not challenge the right of the Sabahs to rule but it wanted a bigger role in governing the coun-

Diplomats said the opposition had so far failed to make any gains since liberation. Although the general public was critical of the government it had not swung

behind the opposition. "The government has succeeded in pulling the rug from under the feet of the opposition, one diplomat said.

The diplomats expected the elections to be free and fair but said chances were slim of a largely disorganised opposition gain-

Ahmad Baqr, leader of the Muslim fundamentalist movenow is the restoration of demoliberation.

> tion and the preoccupation of citizens in restoring their normal lives," he said.

> patience was running out - "if tion requires us to escalate, then we will, but peacefully."

The opposition leaders the government was able to manipulate the elections by changing electoral districts and keeping voters sweet with pay rises and financial

would cause an election backlash. "We are banking on the govern-

#### hanged here at the scen ment Al Salaf, acknowledged the crime," he said. opposition groups had failed to The bomb carved a cra achieve any of their goals since metres deep on Mamour one block from the F "When Kuwait was born again barracks where pro-Irani after liberation we did not wish to damentalists once held escalate due to the security situaped Western hostages.

But he hinted the opposition's we see that our national obliga-

Mr. Nibari said he hoped this

### Iran eases, slightly, its standoff with Swiss embassy

GENEVA (AP) — Iran stopped searching Swiss diplomats entering their embassy in Tehran on Monday, but otherwise continued restrictions on the staff that prevented a diplomat from leaving Sunday on vacation. Bern officials said.

Meanwhile, Zeyal Sarhadi, the Iranian whose arrest in Bern last Monday set off the latest tensions between Switzerland and Iran. formally filed a request that he be released from custody.

on Sunday indefinitely because of the Iranian restrictions, which in the process shut off the United States' interest section in Tehran. The Swiss have represented U.S. concerns in Tehran since the 1979 occupation of the American embassy there.

lin Fitzwater said the United States still has other channels of communication with Iran, Algeria also acts as a go-between: it administers the Iranian interest section in Washington.

part of the Tehran embassy, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Marco Cameroni.

has eight diplomats altogether.

Iran claims Mr. Sarhadi is an employee of the Bern embassy and is thus immune from arrest, but the Swiss say he entered Switzerland on a tourist visa last September and has never been registered with them as a diplomat or embassy employee. They acknowledge that he has been

An immediate decision by the federal court on Mr. Sarhadi's

Iranian leader.

the Iranian guards outside. · Iranian employees of the

remained good, however, Mr. Haffner said. The exception was Christa Felder, the diplomat who Sunday, Mr. Haffner said. She was to begin her honeymoon, he added.

The Iranians confiscated her diplomatic passport, but the embassy was allowed to pick it up from the airport several hours

The Swiss arrested Mr. Sarhadi at the request of France, who issued an international warrant accusing him of renting apartments and providing other assistance for the killers of an exiled

Shahpour Bakhtiar, the late Shah's final prime minister, was killed at his home near Paris last

Switzerland closed the embassy

White House spokesman Mar-

Switzerland's foreign interest section, which also handles South African affairs, makes up a large

The foreign section consists of three Swiss and seven local employees, he said. The embassy

request was unlikely. Swiss authorities have a chance to respond, and France has until Jan. 10 to file a request for the extradition of the Iranian, whom the French have sought in connection with the slaying of an exiled In Tehran Swiss Charge d'Af-

fires Walter Haffner said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press' Swiss service that Swiss employees of the embassy were allowed on Monday to enter the embassy without being searched or questioned by

ched and put through long interrogations, as they have been since last week, said Mr. Haffner. Spirits of the embassy staff

was prevented from leaving on

Iranian leader.

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

(Terminal 1)

### Iran's defence minister ends Qatar visit

with Qatari officials, the Qatari News Agency reported. Mr. Torkan, on his first visit to Qatar, had talks with Qatari Crown Prince and Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani and inspected air and naval bases and Qatari plants and factories.

#### Aug. 6.

Torkan left Doha Monday following military and economic talks

#### MANAMA. Bahrain, (R) — Iran's Defence Minister Akbar

### **JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR**

#### **JORDAN TELEVISION** Tel: 773111-19 PROGRAMME TWO

News in French ws in Arab .. Evening shade

F. eture Film: "Captain Couragious 44:00 ..... Concert by Belinda Carlisle PRAYER TIMES

06:16 11:26	Fa (Sunrise) Dul
14:12	Maghre
	CHURCHES
F4 b4-	

Assemblies of God Claurch, Tel. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Assumeiation

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terresante Church Tel: 622366 623541. Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 771331 Argnesis 775261, A**rmmen** 685326. The Church of Jenn Christ of Latter-Day Sakan Tel. 823824, 654932. Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691.

WEATHER lictin supplied by the Department of

It will be cold, cloudy, and rainy and winds will be southwesterly fresh. In Agaba, it will be partly cloudy and rainy at times and winds will be south-

**USEFUL TELEPHONE** 

NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Khalid Mu'addi . Dr. Khalil Abdo ..... Dr. Abbas Al Hakim Dr. Ghaleb Zawaideb

Firas pharmacy
Ferdows pharmacy
Al Asema pharmacy 637055 Naironkh pharmac 623672 (275825)

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ... 630341 Fire Brigade... Blood Bank ... Highway Police ...... Traffic Police ...... Public Security Department Public security Hotel Complaints . 661176 ......Complaints....... Telephone Information . 121 Central Amman Telephone 774111 636381 light Information ....... 08-53200 on Alia Intl. Airport..... 08-53200 HOSPITALS

Abmare:
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn ... 644281/6
Akilch Maternity, J. Ann.... 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity ........ 642362 Malhas, J. Amman ...... Palestine, Shmeisani .... .... 664171/4 Shmeisani Hospital University Hospital . 669131 . 845845 667227/9 666127/37

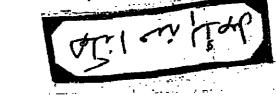
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Al-Ahii, Abdali ... Italian, Al-Muhajre

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh .... ZAROA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... Zarqa National Hospital ... Ibn Sina Hospital ........ Al Hilma Modern Hospital ..... Princess Basma Hospital Greek Catholic Hospital Ibn Al Nafees Hospital... Princess Haya Hospital ....

FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Other Filghts (Terminal 2) ..... Beirut (ME)
Bucharest (MS) DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) ------ Aqaba (R.) ----- London (R.) ----- Tripoli (R.) Vicana, Frankfurt (R.) Beigrade, Madrid (RI)
Herdam, New York (RI)
Rome Madrid (RI) This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Owner Alia International va, Paris (RI) 20:30 Abu Dubai, Dubai (R.) Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.



# bo Criticism of government grows prior to budget approval

newed MMAN (J.T.) — The Lower to the lower of Parliament's approval ebanon of the 1992 fiscal budget Monday bloods followed two days of intense de-

n October & House members, in addition to ing of relief for their constituencies, critipacket formance in implementing past ot following through on propand projects to lack of proper to lack of proper

Deputy Attta Al Shawan hemphasised in his address the need for maintaining the thister letter to maintraining the state of the congest possible cooperation last the field working relationships begin the coming the company that the criticised the budget for at the coming on an expension of

of focusing on an expansion of on Management on should have been given from the line small-and medium-sized prosiects in industry and agriculture once when absorb more unemployed peo-

ian are being Deputy Majed Khalifa and De-barrat Nguty Abdul Aziz Jaber asked that n 1981, being government give more atten-the barrat give more attenthe barret tion to medical care and schools he while deputies Nayef Al Hadid he swalled for ned to the two-shift school as finish east to the two-shift school as finish estem. They called on the govsolid comment to build hospitals at the whose a sahab and Muwaqqar regions in in the mouthern Amman and to carry omes describe electrification of the rea place Lemining parts of the rural areas of Isewhere Lordan.

Deputy Ahmad Al Abbadi calblared at led on the government to live up donation in its promises of dealing with the ed through prestions of poverty, unemployhe surve, ment and soaring prices as well as old gil Jordan's external debts. He ocolate in moted, that the government has covered in received JD 14 million in dug out a said from the United States, which if shork were never spent on small-sized income generating projects to re-

the demanded that the government provide the House with en littdetails about areas where the aid ed from paras spent. Deputy Yousef Al Azm spoke

on behalf of all deputies from the ers of Mr. Maan Governorate, demanding ve threatent that the government direct atten-Judget when to water, road and other



Lower House of Parliament members discussed the proposed 1992 budget Monday. Some members, in addition to calling for specific

municipal services in the Maan

and Aqaba regions. He also cal-

led on the government to develop

the health centre at Wadi Mousa

into a hospital and for the Nation-

al Aid Fund to be made to cover a

wider sector of the population.

affairs and finance as well as the

radio and television corporation

and the Civil Aviation Authority.

He demanded that the Audit

Bureau impose stricter control on

Deputy Mahmoud Al Hweimel

drew attention to the school

dropouts in the Jordan Valley

region and demanded that the

education process in the rural

regions be developed. He called

for farmers' debts to be resche-

duled to improve their living con-

referred to the country's foreign

debts and criticised the govern-

ment for planning to get more

loans in order to pay part of the

external debts and services on

the effectiveness of the economic

restructuring programme agreed

Mr. Ekour cast doubt about

Deputy Abdul Rahim Ekour

their financial operations.

pervision.

Deputy Fuad AF Khalafat

with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He said that the IMF had imposed this programme not for the sake of reforming the national economy, noting that many Third World countries following the advice of the IMF had fallen deeper, in debt and are now facing deteriorating econo-

urged the government to place the qualified people in governmic conditions. ment positions, especially those Referring to unemployment, with decision-making powers. he said that it was regrettable to The next stage, he said, requires see a lack of equal opportunities careful planning and feasible for all people seeking jobs in the programmes with the government country. Appointment in government offices hinges on the whims maintaining strict control and suand desires of the influential The deputy criticised financial decision-makers who tend to practices by some departments favour their relatives and friends, like the ministries of foreign

Deputy Ahmad Dafawin urged the government to give more attention to agriculture. Many state-owned lands in the Karak region remain undeveloped while no move is being made to drill artesian wells in those regions to irrigate the land, he said.

The deputy urged the government to give attention to the Wadi Ben Hamad, Karak and Lejoun regions in southern Jordan. Mr. Kafawin also made demands for improvements of the education, health and municipal services in the south.

Deputies from the Zarna area presented a set of demands to the government calling for the establishment of sports facilities and demanding that municipalities and village councils be offered greater assitance.

They also demanded that a new garbage dump be found away



projects, questioned the government's fiscal responsibility (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan'

from the present one near Ruseifa to prevent pollution of the atmosphere and called on the government to impose stricter control over the various factories within the Zarqa region.

The deputies noted that poverty and unemployment were widespread in the Zarqa region and called on the government to increase social development services to needy families. These deputies named 10 villages and rural settlements which still lack electricity and demanded that health services be upgraded in

Deputy Nader Dhuheirat called for solving problems facing areas in the Jordan Valley and urged it to convert several rural councils to municipal councils. He also called for setting up dams in areas exposed to floods in winter and for increasing the number of water pumps installed on the Wadi Al Arab Dam.

Mr. Dhuheirat also asked the government to increase the quota of the regions of Al Koura and the northern Jordan Valley in university seats and to augment the number of scholarships for the two regions.

Deputy Ahmad Al Kofahi asked the government to tackle the problems of unemployment, poverty, high prices and indebtedness and urged it to stabilise the Jordanian dinar's exchange rate and decrease foreign im-

Dr. Kofahi, a Muslim Brotherhood member from Irbid, called

for carrying out the King Abdullah Hospital Project, expanding health centres, completing the aericultural roads network, developing the telephone services in addition to supporting municipal and rural councils in Irbid Gov-

Deputy Nayef Al Hadid called for solving the basic problems plaguing Jordanian society such as unemployment and poverty, and for achieving balance between the society's various sectors and supporting the armed

He stressed the importance of cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities and affirmed the need to support the executive authority to enable it to carry out plans and projects mentioned in its 1992 general budget and to help it overcome economic challenges and external press-

He criticised the increasing number of universities and institutes, whether public or private, and said these educational institutions were not established randomly. He said that such universities and institutes contributed only to increasing the number of the unemployed in Jordan.

Deputy Ibrahim Ghababsheh called for listing the country's debts in an appendix added to the general budget draft law to facilitate the process of following it up. He requested the establishment of earth dams in the southern parts of Jordan and said that such dams are of strategic importance to Jordan.

#### **UNRWA** employees hold sit-in, demand pay increase teachers could opt to take further action should their desaid Ali Abdul Malik, who By Elia Nasrallah

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Committees representing some 6,000 employees of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Jordan Monday staged a one-hour sit-in at the agency's headquarters in Amman and handed to the agency director a cable which they demanded be sent to UNRWA Commissionner General Ilter Turkmen in Vienna.

The sit-in and the cable were motivated by the workers' demand for better pay and as a manifestation of their dismay at the agency's decision to grant them a mere 4 to 12 per cent salary increase, considered far less than expected.

We expected to get a reasonable increase in salaries in view of the soaring prices and the general economic situation, but we have been granted less increases than our colleagues in Lebanon, Syria and the West Bank and Gaza,"

represents the teachers group. Between 1979 and 1991 UNRWA workers and teachers were offered two increases in salaries while those of other areas in UNRWA received several increases dur-

in interview with the Jordan "UNRWA workers in Syria received some 40 per cent, those in Lebanon 25 per cent and the West Bank and the Gaza Strip 25 per cent," he

ing the same period," he said

"In our cable to Mr. Turkmen, we expressed our dismay Over this issue and demanded that our salaries be increased to at least the same level with those of the our colleagues in other areas." he said.

Dennis Brown, the UN-RWA director in Jordan, has been handed the cable to forward it to Vienna, Mr. Malik said. "We hope that our rightful demand will be met as soon as possible," he added.

"The cable and the sit-in were aimed at expressing our dismay at being treated unfairly and to call on the agency to reconsider its decision about the increase," said Mr. Malik.

mands continue to be ignored,

but he gave no details.

The last time UNRWA em-

ployees took action in demand

for an increase in salaries was

in 1989, after which the agency

conducted a survey of living

standards and gave the

teachers an increase in pay.

Mr. Malik said that 30 com-

mittes gathered at the agency

headquarters Monday, repre-

senting teachers, workers, and

UNRWA headquarters offi-

He said that the workers hope that the agency will now respond favourably to their demand to avert further complications. He said the agency staff hope to get an increase that would help them cope with the soaring cost of living in the country.

## Protestors staging hunger strike, sit-in against U.N. embargo on Iraq

He said that the workers and

By Nur Sati

Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN - Two people who have been staging a hunger strike against the U.N. sanctions on Iraq have been admitted to a hospital, officials said.

The two, part of a group of 20 people who have been conducting sit-ins in front of the United Nations headquarters in Shmeisani, were admitted to the hospital Sunday, officials said. No further information on their condition was avail-

The strikers, who are mostly Palestinians, Jordanians and Sudanese and are members of the Al Hussein Youth Club, said Sunday they will continue their hunger strike for another three days. In the meantime, they will continue their pro-tests in front of the U.N. headquarters.

"We are going to walk to the U.S. embassy and hand them a leaflet," said Alawi Shedhan, who has been taking part in the sit-ins for the past two week. "We just want to let the world

children are suffering and they are looking for peace."
The United Nations Chil-

dren' Fund (UNICEF), which has been conducting humanitarian relief programmes to Iraq since the Gulf war ended, has estimated that 87,000 children have died as a result of the embargo.

One of the protestors, a middle-aged man from Sudan, has shaved off his hair and refused to talk to people as a sign of solidarity with the children of Iraq, Mr. Shedhan

"He is reflecting the silence of the Iraqi children," Mr. Shedhan said Although admitting that he

does not expect much of a reaction from the U.S. embassy, Mr. Shedhan said that he was hoping to draw attention to what is happening in Iraq. "We are looking for a trial to change something which we consider was a dirty war," he

The leaflet, which will also be given to the Chinese, Russian and Egyptian embassies, and the United States for their roles in enforcing the embargo. Following are major excerpts from the leaflet:

U.S. President George Bush is associated with the most heinous outrages and merciless economic embargo against Iraq, the cradle of the world's most ancient civilisa-

"Just as what happened in Hiroshema and Nagasaki, when the United States dropped the first nuclear bombs on purely civilian targets, U.S. warplanes bombed the Amiriya civilian shelter in Baghdad to massacre in cold blood women, children and elderly people. The Amiriya crime was so brutal that it dwarfed Nazi crimes during the Second World War."

"The Amiriya crime has rendered invalid all talk by superpowers about human rights. All the tirades by the U.S. allies and those who supported U.N. resolutions to facilitate aggression against Iraq under the U.N. now amount to no more than political treachery,"

### nank took: Russian ambassador pledges ore Masser Strong ties with Jordan

nber Kness AMMAN (J.T.) - Official documents proclaiming the formation 31. deading of the Commonwealth of Indeget is also impendent States following the colands from Stapse of the Soviet Union were ir. Sham a handed Monday to the Speaker one for the Liber the Upper House of Parlialy have besient, Ahmad Al Lawzi, by Rusv Haant Usian ambassador to Jordan Yuri e Ministr Griadonov.

ed to pay a The ambassador, who repreels (Siba sents Russia as well as the comil 5,000 he monwealth in Jordan, expressed unied tax his country's keenness on pur-

suing the course of friendly relaase memilions and close cooperation beient-sponsetween Jordan and the commonbuilt in the wealth at all levels. and Gas The Jordan News Agency, Pet-

ministry 142, said that Mr. Lawzi representhe 7d led Jordan's determination to rties las pursue cooperation with the new ig for sense commonwealth in the spirit of omnes instice, freedom, peace, U.N. principles and resolutions. The ker. land apeaker expressed Jordan's hope

s Rights 🤼

cement with

ses the

of more Russian involvement in matters aimed at achieving a just and durable peace in the Middle East in implementation of the Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Griadonov on Saturday met His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and assured him of the commonwealth's policies regarding the Middle East issue. He said that his country was keen on ensuring a lasting peace in the Middle East region and was going ahead with plans to host the multilateral talks in Moscow as nlanned. Mr. Lawzi told the ambassador

that the Upper House of Parliament was looking forward for further scopes of cooperation between the Russian and Jordanian parliaments in a manner that would contribute most beneficially towards promoting the cause of peace and serving the national



Ahmad Al Lawzi

interests of the Russian and

Jordanian people. The three-colour Russian flag was last Friday hoisted on the former Soviet embassy building in Amman and Mr. Griadonov said in a statement that Russia, which was taking over the former Soviet Union's seat at the United Nations, was also representing the commonwealth in Jordan.

### Libyan official calls for Jordanian support against Lockerbie accusations

porter

AMMAN — Deputy Speaker of the Libvan National Assembly Ibrahim Al Ghuweil Tuesday ends a two-day visit to Jordan during which he sought the Kingdom's support for Tripoli's stand in the Lockerbie affairs.

"I discussed with the Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat the open threats directed against two Libyan citizens on the part of Britain, the U.S. and other countries, noting that charges against the Libyans accused of being involved in the crash of the Pan Am jet over Lockerbie have not been substantiated," he said. Mr. Ghuweil told the Jordan

international community is also a

the actual subsidy for food and for

production of cereals will be JD48

attention to the energy sector.

Ninety-seven per cent of population

centres now have power and the rest

national grid depending on the availa-bility of funds; the Jordan Electricity

Authority has already been granted

the policy towards community col-leges should be reviewed with the

objective of averting further unem-ployment and directing attention to meeting the needs of the Jordanian

labour market. An ad hoc committe

is studying the situation and program-mes of public and private community

The government's concern over un-

employment includes all stages of

education. Vocational training has been increased and diversification of

secondary level education is also

capital expenditure will be tightened and will be made more efficient and

will be given continuous attention.

emptions from interests due on loans from the Agricultural Credit Cor-poration (ACC) between 1981 and 1991. The amount involved is JD6.2

ciaries was 25,000. The government

supported the ACC with injections of

- Farmers have been given ex-

Regional distribution of the

ess the needy areas. The issue

being carried out.

interest-free loans.

- The government believes that

JD2 million for this purpose

The government is giving special

The government believes that

ments come due.

million in 1992.

By a Jordan Times Staff Re- Jordan's support and those of other friendly Arab countries in the face of all these accusations directed against Libyan citizens.

"Investigations in any country, including Libya, have not pointed an accusing finger at any of the Libyan citizens who were unjustly accused of being involved in this tragedy," Mr. Ghuweil said.

Last week, Libyan leader Muammar Oadhafi invited the West to send judges to Tripoli to take part in investigations into the alleged implication of two Libvan citizens in the 1988 Pan Am crash

The Libyan foreign minister had said that Libya was willing to send judges to Washington, London or Paris to discuss the Times that Libya was counting on charges.

### Snow expected

AMMAN (J.T.) - A white New Year is expected in Jordan with most hilly areas expected to be covered with snow Wednesday and Thursday as a new cold air mass will be affecting the country and the rest of the eastern Mediterranean region, according to the Department of Meteorolo

The Department director, Dr. Ali Abanda, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the cold front will be accompanied by a very cold polar wind bringing in heavy rains which will start in the north, gradually extending toother areas of the Kingdom.

The very cold wind will cause snow to fall on hilly regions and the cold weather conditions will continue for three days, said Dr. Abanda. Department officials later told the Jordan Times that the snow was expected to fall on all areas above 750 metres. This means all regions in and around the capital, which is more than 800 metres above sea level, will probably receive snow.

Department officials said that some rain will fall Tuesday morning, but the activity will start in the afternoon when the intensity will increase and snow will start

The officials said that temperatures are expected to drop to minus 1 celsius and could rise to 5 celsius during the day.

to open branch in Karak area already been announced. He KARAK (Petra) — The Agri-cultural Credit Corporation pointed out that the corporation is now working on training qual-(ACC) board of directors has ified staff to be employed at the decided to open a new branch for

**Agricultural Credit Corporation** 

the corporation in the Ghor Al Safi area to provide services for farmers in the southern Jordan Karak Governor Eid Qatarneh, who met with ACC Director General Mansour Ben Tarif Monday, stressed the importance

dan Valley region and of holding small projects which could provide income to the families in the He also lauded the ACC's role in supporting farmers and com-

of developing the southern Jor-

mended its cooperation with the agricultural sector in the Karak overnorate. Mr. Ben Tarif said the corpora-

Valley region.

tion will commence, construction work in the building of the Ghor Al Safi branch in January and that tenders for the project have

Governorate, Mr. Ben Tarif said, emorate. is very active. "It constitutes 20 per cent of the volume of credits in Jordan, which is estimated at about JD10 million," he said.

He affirmed that the corporation's recent decision to pay for part of the interest rates on some loans was commended by farmers who expressed their willing to cooperate with it. He called on farmers to pay back their debts to enable the corporation to continue extending its services to the,

agricultural sector. In another development, Mr. Ben Tarif Monday visited the new building which now houses the ACC offices in the Karak Governorate and inspected the work process in its various sec-

According to Director of the ACC Karak' branch Hamed

Omeireen, the branch had extended loans worth JD2,243,915 The credit movement in Karak to 773 farmers in the Karak Gov-Mr. Ben Tarif Monday told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the corporation will continue extending investment loans to far-

mers in the various agricultural fields, including land reform, the planting of trees, exploiting water resources and developing animal wealth in the Kingdom. He said that JD11 million were allocated for the ACC's 1992 plans. The plans of the corporation, he said, will concentrate on supporting agricultural processing

and manufacturing projects, particularly cooperative ones, and marketing agricultural products in addition to providing loans to farmers to purchase agricultural machinery.

#### Fast mail service to be introduced in Irbid, Aqaba extend the service to all parts of AMMAN (Petra) --- Fast deliv-

ery mail service will be introduced to the cities of Irbid and Agaba for the first time by the beginning of January, Com-munications Minister Jamal Saraireh said Monday.

increasing demand of fast delivpart of the ministry's plans to the Kingdom, the fast delivery, mail services will be introduced in Irbid and Aqaba with the same conditions and rates as in Am-

or private establishment could cail at the central mail offices in Irbid and Aqaba to benefit from the fast delivery mail service, Mr.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

**EXHIBITIONS** 

Art and ornamentation exhibition by Sabah Hadidi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Art exhibition by Jumana Al Husseini at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

### RJ to introduce baby meal service

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, will introduce baby meal service on its aircraft along all routes starting Wednesday, according to an airline announcement Mon-

The announcement said that the meals will be prepared by the RJ catering units in Amman and offered along with sweets for the benefit of the young passengers of different

ne participation (Continued from page 1) iditional incal labour market, he said. mied term. The prime minister also pointed finance out that Jordan is trying to tackle the the past broblem of foreign debts and that in 1000 the consent of foreign debts will be at er said the expense of the national reserves Tely cherwise create more job opportuni-

getting the first said his government will prove the problem of the first said his government will prove the problem of the pr ould boost the fund's activities to cover the widest sector of the needy

to conduct an overall review of public administration and bring about re-

On the political front, Sharif Zeid said the government was totally committed to enhancing the democratisation of Jordan. He said the government would not

design the government would intolerate personal calamny, especially
gainst those who assume responsible
plets. Personal defamation is in violaition of all parliamentary and demobratic norms, he pointed out.

Adults a respective to the equiding force Matual respect is the guiding force behind the relationship between the government and parliament, he said. Sharif Zeid thanked the House Finance Committee for its report, which, he said, contained a high ser of responsibility aimed at safeguard-ing national interests.

Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh, eplying to deputies' comments. imphasised the need to adhere to unclearly and respectively plan he presented to the flouse alongwith the 1992 budget on fact. 11.

There is nothing in economic hisbry that proves that developing funtries have been able to redress

House endorses 1992 budget economic imbalances and achieve a the deputies point by point, reafcontinued growth through cooperating with each other, not with interna-

mal agencies," he said.
"Turning in on one's self and not cooperating with the international munity leads to isolation at a time when he are in dire need of opening up and exploiting every opportunity get out of the current (economic)

Mr. Jardaneh did not mention prices rise but said government sub-sidies on basic staples such as bread and sugar would remain unchanged and any future measures to increase revenues through indirect taxes would not affect the poor. The reform plan aims at trimming

crisis." he said.

huge deficits in both the budget and balance of payments, building up foreign exchange reserves and encouraging more local and foreign Mr. Jardaneh said Jordan would seek all ways to involve the interna-

tional community in easing its foreign debt burden. Mr. Jardaneh, replying to the de-mands of many deputies, said the government would continue to provide financial assistance to municipa and rural councils but that the policy could not continue indefinitely since previous experience has shown that

such allocations sap the country's Mr. Jardaneh said that during 1988-91, the government provided JD38.8 million to these councils to help them pay their debts or to acquire real estate for public utilities, but such assistance has not contributed to solving the financial problems of the

The government will conduct individual studies of the councils prior to deciding on extending assistance, he

The finance minister, replying to

with the budget to the house earlier Among the points he mentioned

WETE: - The government had shouldered the cost of setting up telecommunica-tions projects and of maintaining and operating them. The charges levied by the Telecommunication Corporation are low and the government now believes that a certain margin of profit should be derived from the corporation's operations. Only highome groups benefit from the operations that the government has singled out and therefore any increase in the cost of such services will not

hurt the common man. — The government is working on a national water strategy, with particu-lar attention on rationalising the use; of water. It will impose strict controls water treatment plants. The 1992 budget allocates JD14 million for building dams.

- The government is determined to encourage savings for investment, reduce the budget defict and achieve parity between the current account and the balance of payment by 1998. - The government shares the opinion of deputies that the volume of foreign debts of Jordan has exceeded safe margins and the cost-servicing of the debts is too high. After rescheduling repayment, the servicing of foreign debts will be 17.4; per cent of the expected exports and 12.3 per cent of the expected gross domestic product in 1992. This is an acceptable ratio, and the governmen is cooperating with international agencies to reschedule or restructure

(convert) debts and reduce interest While rescheduling is only a temporary measure, the government be-

#### lieves that the Jordanian economy will be in a better position enough to meet its obligations when the pay-Wednesday A partial write-off of Jordan by the

falling.

### Any citizen, company or public He said that in view of the ery mail in the two cities and as

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### Secrecy is double-edged

EVERYONE IS still very secretive in this country. Yesterday evening, Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, Jordan's chief delegate to the Middle East peace talks, was lecturing at the World Affairs Council, presumably, on the development of the peace talks and the path they are expected to follow. The press was not invited and when we inquired if we could attend, we were told we were not allowed to be present at the lecture, which was open only to a selected few.

A reporter at this newspaper had been trying all week to get information on an alleged corruption case at a leading Jordanian institution, but to no avail. An Arabic daily last week published the text of what it said was a circular by one minister banning his staff from talking to the press except with prior permission from the minister himself.

These are only few examples of how our society still views the role of the press. Many of our esteemed politicians and officials seemingly have no respect for journalists' and newspapers' discretion and judgement much less their right to free access to newsworthy events or developments. Yet no chance is missed to criticise the press for not playing its intended role in democracy-building. The press cannot fulfill its function as a Fourth Estate unless all restrictions placed on it, except those deemed necessary by national security interests, are lifted. To be able to counter the Israeli media, for example, journalists need to know in-depth Jordan's position regarding the peace talks. Editors and chief-editors are responsible and wise people who are no less keen over the country's interest than their colleagues in the government or on peace missions. Keeping the press blind to important information such as the lecture delivered by Jordan's chief negotiator does not reciprocate the posture of responsibility that the press has tried to maintain. It is no longer viable or healthy to withhold information. People not only have the right to know, governments are obliged to make information available to anyone who seeks it. Secrecy encourages corruption because companies and individuals who keep their accounts secret can very easily evade tax. Likewise, officials who hide the information up their own sleeves could always be eyed with suspicion.

Despite all the restrictions, the press, in two years of the democratisation process, has so far shown a reasonable measure of restraint not less than that shown by government or Parliament.

Almost two hundred years ago, one great exponent of democracy and free speech said that if he would have been asked to choose between a government without a free press or a free press without government, he would have chosen the latter. It ought at last be realised that free press is a guarantee for a progressive government and a free society. For unless everyone knew his or her actions are public, one would very easily be tempted to use whatever power he or she possesses to his or her own self interest. The press is not a legislator, neither is it governor or judge. It merely is the means by which society exchanges information and conducts its debates. Unless the press is allowed to do just that, ours will be a deaf and mute society. Is this how our peers want

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Monday praised the Financial Committee of the Lower House of Parliament for what it called an objective and in-depth evaluation of the 1992 draft budget and the economic reform plan attached to it as presented by the finance minister to the House. Perhaps it is one of very rare times that such positive and constructive response has been drawn from the Lower House which seems now to fully realise the crucial moments the country is facing and the government's sincere efforts to reform the national economy through the implementation of an economic restructuring programme, said the paper. The Finance Commit-tee's report was comprehensive and reflected a high degree of awareness of the nation's problems and presented a clear insight into the serious challenges and difficult circumstances facing Jordan at the moment, commented the daily. It said that both the committee's report and the speeches of the various deputies demonstrated a high sense of responsibility and true commitment to share in the process of reforming the national economy. The speeches dwelt mainly on the questions of poverty, unemployment and the reform of the national economy, shedding more light on methods that could be followed to carry out the restructuring programme, the paper noted. It said that the Parliament session was more like a politico-economic symposium, focusing attention on the difficult economic and social questions now facing our nation.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that Iran was not only Iraq's enemy, but that of the whole Arab Nation, Abdul Rahim Omai reviewed Tehran's position before, during and after the Gulf crisis, accusing the Iranian regime of stabbing the Arab Nation in the back. Statements given by the heads of the Tehran regime had given false hopes to the Arab countries which soon discovered the real role and intentions of their eastern neighbour, said the writer. In the Gulf war. Iran stood by the U.S.-led alliance, after the war ended, Tehran has been instrumental in creating disturbances inside Iraq, causing further sufferings to its people and later tightening the blockade imposed on Baghdad, the writer pointed out. He said that the Iranians still detain thousands of Iranians prisoners of war, hold Iraqi civilian and military aircraft and continue to foment trouble among the Shiites in southern Iraq. The Iranians, who never fired a single shot against the Israel occupiers of Palestine, staged an anti-American conference to abort the peace process, but at the same time were in secre negotiations with Washington over the fate of the hostages in Lebanon, the writer continued. The long-established Iranian alliance with Libya came to nought when the Western countries started issuing threats against Tripoli, said the columnist. Noting that Tehran is now turning its attention to Sudan, the writer said this move is clearly intended to stir trouble in neighbouring Egypt through the Islamic fundamentalist groups, with the hope of destabilising the Arab country.

The View from Fourth Circle

# God, Algeria, Arab rebirth and potato chips

THE stunning victory of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS, its French acronym) in the first round of the Algerian parliamentary elections is a very important milestone for the region, perhaps the most important political development since the overthrow of the Shah of Iran in 1989. Like the demise of the Shah, the FIS victory sends three powerful messages:

1. It is a sign of massive grassroots disenchantment with the existing political, social, and economic order.

- 2. It serves notice to the incumbent Arab power structure that grassroots political organisation and human will can change or even remove long established systems, regardless of those systems' control of the means of violence, patronage, or the national budget.
- 3. The powerful appeal of Islam can and will be used to rally political sentiment across Arab frontiers artificially estab-lished by the British and French in the 1930s. It provides Arabs with an effective short term hope that the sense of identity and security that has not been satisfied to date either by Arab nationalism or secular statism may be achieved through other indigenous vehicles.

What happens next is anybody's guess. Mine is that FIS rule in Algeria cannot be stopped without tremendous bloodshed, and the government and army would be foolish to try to stop it. The FIS will take power, and its rule will result in two developments: a) It will gradually transform Algeria into a mildly "Islamic" state, with comforting emotional changes and superficial but highly symbolic acts that formally commit the state to Islamic dictates, but little substantive changes in the affairs of the state or the individual and b) In the end, it will simply confirm what has been clear for about the last, oh, three thousand years that states based on religion do not work, for religion is a spiritual compact with God and a moral code for man's daily life, not a manifesto for the political configuration of temporal and independent states.

The several contemporary models of states with strong or even formal religious foundations (Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Sudan, Israel, Lebanon) are lands of deep human sentiment and dignity, but hardly models of paradise on earth. While they all have their good points, and the three religions represented in their frenzied political arrangements (Islam, Judaism, and Christianity) share a parallel wellspring of moral rectitude, they are emphatic confirmation that religion as a basis for statehood is a failed experiment. Religion in the service of politics, however, is a powerful yet transitional occurrence. It is a means of change more than a means of policy-formulation, as valid for Middle Easterners today as it was for black South Africans in the 1980s and black Americans in the 1960s.

God is highly effective partner in protesting and challenging unjust political orders, as Iran. Algeria, and others have shown us. But He has yet to prove his competence in export promotion, job creation, budget balancing, water conservation, and the many other practical problems that have to be resolved by ruling

Algeria will once again test these truisms, and it can use all the help it can get. For the Algerians are a good microcosm of everything wrong with the Arab World in recent decades -

centralised and autocratic government, intolerance for opposing political opinions, corruption and mismanagement, social confusion due to rapid consumerism, urbanism, and industrialisation, a distorted reliance on foreign imports of food and capital and consumer goods, massive foreign debt, rising unemployment, and a general deterioration in individual quality of life, sense of confidence, and future hope. When we see all of these things happening in our part of the

Arab World, in the Levantine states bordering Israel and Palestine, we tend to attribute much of the blame to the consequences of the militarism, waste, and distortions of the

Arab-İstaeli conflict. Algeria, however, is far away from Palestine and the bitter anger of the Levant; yet it still suffers problems so massive and pervasive that its people have sought last resort refuge in the arms of God, and in the slogans and promises of those would claim in represent God in earthly political circles. Clearly, Algeria is a confused and directionless land, an Arab/Islamic orphan suffering the consequences of inappropriate parentage at the handsi of its French foster parents. Algeria is

perhaps the most sad and glaring example of post-colonial Arab stupor. A land rich in resources, history, culture, and people. Algeria stumbles into the 1990s dazed and deeply in debt. Its people are angry and frightened. Their past and their language were taken from them by the French. Their present is an embarrassing mess resulting from over a quarter century of one-party rule. Their future is all they have left, and they do not want to lose that as well.

Desperate to salvage whatever they can of their national identity, the Algerian people turned to Islam the only force that could unite them, spur them on to great deeds of national self-assertion, and challenge the excesses and failures of the public political order. All of this started in the mid 1980s, peaking first in the 1988 street riots that forced the National Liberation Front to relinquish its monopoly on power and adopt a pluralistic political system. This electoral victory is the second peak for the Islamic opposition, and it is doubly significant because it happened despite fervent attempts by the government and the ruling power elite to discredit the Islamic movement, lock up its leaders, and influence the election results through blatant electoral redistricting that gave the government a better chance of

Nevertheless, the government lost badly, because it had failed the crucial test of responding to the rights, needs and, aspirations of the Algerian people. The victory of the Islamic Salvation Front confirms that Islam remains the primary vehicle for political expression of massive grassroots discontent. It also indicates that the pause in Arab political transformation that accompanied the Gulf war is now over. The momentum for widespread political change in the region now resumes from the point it reached in mid

The West and much of the power elite in the Arab World are worried and frightened by the Islamic victory, and understandably so, for the FIS victory is indeed a major threat to the made-in-Europe and protected by America order that has ruled the Arab World for the last half a century. That order has seen something like two thousand billion dollars transferred from the Arab World to the West in the last 30 years, in the form of imports, investments, bank deposits, payment for goods and services, and, most recently, protection money and payments to

rent Western armies. But this order has not worked we from the viewpoint of the average Arab man or woman, it is no surprise that the Arab people today should be den something different, and something better.

The Shah's overthrow in 1979 was an early sign that the Middle Eastern order had largely failed its people. The I challenge to the Syrian government and Anwar Sadar's as tion two years later were other signs of something very the soul of our Arab/Islamic lands. Many other signs folion the next decade, including the overthrow of Jaafar New Sudan, Habib Bourguiba in Tunisia, and Mohammad Siad in Somalia, the ethnic and religious fragmentation of Le the continued Islamic challenge to the Egyptian regime, the demonstrations in Jordan in April 1989 that led to democratisation, the growing and increasingly successful sroots pressures for political pluralism in Mauritania (M nia!), the recent ethnic/political violence in Djibouti, the of autocratic systems in Yemen, the collapse and bloody of of the Somali state, and, finally, when Kuwait was literally in 1991, the deafening silence throughout the Arab Wo Only two major political forces have not been tried in a silence throughout the Arab Wo

manner in the Arab World in recent decades - democra Islam. The third important force of Arab nationalism can a manifested as a result of Islam or democracy's succeptopelling the Arab people forward, far from their past for the and subjugation, beyond their recent torpor, and well awa their current stupor. The race is now on to see whether dem or Islam captures the heart and imagination of the Arabs are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

In fact, they are probably symbiotic in character, each of the other support and strength, the Islamic groups are ex influence and wielding power in several Arab countries (Y Jordan, Algeria) thanks to their participation in demo processes. Those who fear the Islamic wave should re-ex their fears, and accept it as an inevitable and ulticonstructive phase in the national transformation and re-b an Arab Nation that has been ailing, wandering, and floun for many decades dazzled by the money of oil, the glid Western video games, and the satisfying crunch of potato

The premier task now facing the Arabs and Muslims region is to work out a new political model that is appropri our region, social legacy, and people. Such a model accommodate Islam as our primary moral heritage and fo tion, democracy as the key operative principle of our publi and pluralism as the immutable foundation of our multi-e multi-religious Arab societies that include many non-Arab non-Muslims. To fight the power of Islam and grassroots M Eastern political sentiment is to fight a losing and unnecessability, and also to engage in hypocritical fears — if we are a about respecting the will of the majority through plus democracy. After being told for many decades to shut using the property of people of our region are speaking out with force, and they the language of change and renewal. Honest and intelligen and women throughout the Arab World must now assure the continuing triumph of politicised Islam leads to fresh, vig and relevant Arab rebirth grounded in human dignity, fre and identity. That, one suspects, is what God and all his pro had in mind for us all along.

#### By Maria Helt

ALL, on the surface, appears peaceful here. It is late autumn but still warm. The Sea of Galilee laps gently, blue and serene, yet humming with activity. On the other side of the lake the Golan rises, seemingly impervious to . human machinations. Tiberias is not an unpleasant town to visit, well endowed with discos, beaches and waterfront res-

morning on a bus going north. ders of occupation. Striving to Belching forth air conditioning approximate Limassol or the Cosand incongruous muzak, the bus ta del Sol, Tiberias cannot descended quickly into the stark altogether lose its air of frantic austerity of the West Bank. The passengers were on assortment of Israelis going home for the weekend, a few settlers, the odd tourist and a great many soldiers. This military presence, both on and off duty, is something most visitors stop noticing after a day or two. But at first it is quite disquieting. The soldiers, uniformly young and ordinary, their lect. Tiberias entices affluence by machine guns propped carelessly a systematic destruction of the against adjacent seats, are ready, past, a headlong rush away from one supposes, to spring into ac-

# Where life seems happy

enemy territory.

By the time we reached Tiberias after an uneventful journey, the Sabbath was about to start taurants. Nonetheless, intima- ing. But the town seemed to hint squalid hellhole. But do these sad I left Jerusalem on Friday break from the nagging reminescapism. Like them, it has perfected the art of tourism. Overpriced concrete monstrosities line the water front to cater for the anticipated throngs of visitors, most of whom seem to hail from Tel Aviv, or the United States.

While Arab Nazareth, just down the road, suffers from a shocking degree of official neg-

tion. For we are venturing, one bothers to think about them although it is easy to forget, into at all, are disturbing, lurking unbeach resorts. Such forced forget contrasts, yet they seem able to comfortably on the fringes of Israel's consciousness; the occupied territories for example. Not very far away squats the Palestiand banks and shops were clos- mian refugee camp of Balata, a need not pay the hefty entrance unsavoury aspects of the occupier's lot, impinge on the hedonistic sun-seekers of Tiberias?

Probably not.

At the beginning of 1948,
Tiberias was home to around 5,000 Palestinians. Not one remained by the time Israel was established a few months later. In the centre of the town the old mosque still stands, solid and imposing, but abandoned now and sinking, with the blessing of the municipality, into decay. This, clearly, is a side of Tiberias best ignored, an uncomfortable memory of those who used to dwell here. These days, if seen, at all, "the Arabs" are glimpsed at mefulness cannot help but breed On the public beach, a heap of rocks and rubble for which one

fee of more exclusive stretches of Ethiopian boys frolic in the water, using empty plastic bottles strapped to their bodies as swimming aids. There are many Ethiopians in Tiberias, people who "know nothing" neither the language nor the customs of Israel. Yet they are welcome, they are the future.

A country made up of newcomers, and still they pour in, like a plaster vainly struggling to stop a gushing wound. The wound is Palestine, penned in at Balata, at Shu'fat and Dahaysha, in the teeming alleys of Jerusalem's Old City. Meanwhile contented Israeli families enjoy a large and leisurely Sabbath brunch in the

coexist in a neat enough fashion, too neat maybe. Is this what it was all for, the bloodshed and the

striking out across the Sea of road accidents and, so Lake Como, without a care in the world. But the Israelis, we know, have many cares, however determinedly they shrug them off and behave as if morality were on their side. Raucous music booms out everywhere, even from the boats chugging round the lake, to the Golan and back, lit up by fairy lights at night, as if to drown the threatening silence.

There exists in Tiberias a deliberate, carefully cultivated theatricality that is almost convincing. The town occupies, after all, a spectacular natural setting. If one pretends hard enough it is very nearly possible to be beguiled. This scene of simple plea-

whole country celebrate ness as a national cha tic. Violence hovers at t gins of society, ready to at any moment. And does, in loud and aggres nguish?

bal exchanges which pas
Watching the tourist boats viviality, in fist fights and tion of an entire people. the not surprising effect

sure, however, is as dan deceptive as the Middle I

Tiberias is a rough to

told. But not just Tibe

It is an incompletene suggests that, far from ch the occupied territories will be capable of fulfill only by relinquishing Then, one day, its dinormality will come to many have said, Israel ceivably be successful in ing all the land it wants, in very great danger, of soul. — Middle East Ink al, . London.

ducing a national para

also creates a sort of rest

guessing what life should

but not quite able to ac

# Trees as protectors of theenvironment

The following article is reprinted increases flooding and degrades

enough soil to form productive land. Erosion can destroy that work in a matter of hours. Worldwide, 3,200 million hectares are under threat from desertification and the livelihood of 700 million people is at risk.

Wind and water are the principal agents of this destruction. In extreme conditions, 150 tonnes of topsoil can be blown off one hectare of land in an hour. The lighter, finer particles of soil which are also the most fertile are carried away first. It was wind erosion that created the dust bowls in the Great Plains of the United States in the 1930s - one four-day storm carried away 300 million tonnes of soil.

Water erosion is the most common form of erosion; some stu-dies suggest that as much as 25,000 million tonnes of soil are washed away each year. In India, for example, water erosion affects 90 million hectares more than 30 per cent of the grow.

from a United Nations Food and drinking water. Deforestation in Agricultural Organisation pub- the Himalayas contributes to the annual flooding of 4.9 million bectares in India and the washing IT TAKES NATURE between of 2,400 million tonnes of silt into 3,000 and 12,000 years to build up the rivers of Bangladesh each year. Riverbeds in the Terai region of Nepal are rising by between 1.5 to 3 metres a decade. Siltation reduces the effectiveness of dams and hydro-electric systems. It has reduced the life

expectancy of the Nizam Sagar

reservoir in India to 6 per cent of its design capacity. Productive land is also lost when its nutrient contents is depleted, or when it becomes too saline. If groundwater rises to within 1 metre of the surface, it can be drawn to the top and evaporate, leaving concentrations of salts which build up over time and pollute the soil. Waterlogging and salinisation have re-

tares of cropland in Pakistan. The compacting of soil through the use of heavy machinery, or even the continued pounding by cattle, renders it too hard for water to penetrate or for plants to

duced yields from 11 million hec-

While all these chains of events Water erosion causes land- occur naturally, human intervenslides and, by silting up rivers, tion has more than doubled the

troyed an estimated 2,000 million hectares of land.

Wind and water have a major impact when the soil is left exposed: when the protective cover of vegetation is lost. Human beings, through the misuse or overuse of the land, initiate this chain of destruction. Sustainable management, however, can reverse the cycle.

Trees can protect the soil and improve the quality of water sup-plies. They can be used as windbreaks to protect the land from wind erosion up to a distance of at least 20 times their height. Planting shelterbelts has led to increases in grain yields of up to 200 per cent.

In China, a new Great Wall is ing built; a shelterbelt nearly 6,000 km long, covering 1.6 million hectares. It will form a protective barrier around the Gobi desert, designed to reduce erosion and reclaim lost land. In Morocco, windbreaks are helping to stabilise moving sand dunes. stopping them from encroaching on cultivated land.

Trees and vegetation reduce the effect of water erosion by softening the impact of rainfall, by stopping floodwater from sweeping over the land and by holding the soil together. This

binding effect is particularly important on sloping, slip-prone and. Landslides are seven times more frequent in such areas, following the removal of trees.

Forests bordering rivers and streams act as a buffer, catching sediment and filtering out chemicals and pesticides that pollute the water supply. They also lessen the damage from floods.

Because trees absorb more water than other plants, they often compete with crops, but their removal can cause rises in the water table that are equally detrimental.

Many trees restore nutrients to the soil that were removed by crops; by protecting humas they safeguard natural fertilizer sup-

Trees protect the environment in other ways. Coastal wetlands and shallows, particularly estuaries and mangrove swamps, provide food and shelter for waterfowl, fish, crustaceans and molluscs. They are breeding grounds for shrimps. Mangrove forests protect the coastline from wave damage and tidal surges. The cost to U.S. marine fisheries of degradation in coastal wetlands is estimated at \$86 million a year. Using trees to protect the environment can reap real economic benefits.

### LETTERS

## Help Iraqi childre

To the Editor:

ON Christmas Eve, while watching TV, I watched the Am children getting presents in a very happy and warm atmos Immediately I thought of my cousins Halo and Bana in Iraq. They are Iraqi Kurds living in Baghdad. They a allowed to play. Do you know why? Because if they fail do burt themselves, there is no medicine for them in Iraq-

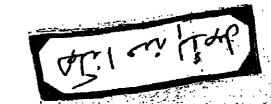
Everytime my father travels to Baghdad, he takes copybooks, pencils and some food for them. Halo and Ban relatives like my father who always remember them with basic needs but what about other children who have no re-On my birthday, I refused to accept presents and I ask

friends to bring milk for Iraqi children instead. Your grandchildren and all children of the United State got everything, and I am sure you spent quite some time to settle on a spiendid present to your grandchildren. Iraqi da are satisfied with a drop of milk.

I asked my parents if it is possible for my letter to be received the president of the United States. The answer was: "We know." But in the name of children and innocent people every person in the United States in whose hands this happens to fall to try and send it to Mr. President George and I'm waiting for an answer.

> Lara Rad Sisters of Nazareth S Jahal He Ammen - Jo

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions for readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intend publication, however, should contain the writer's full name preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only request and under special circumstances. Letters are subjected. editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of a



By Hugh O'Shaughnessy

THE future for them is sinister. Sitting in her headmistress's office in a primary school in Perpignan watching her white, black and Arab pupils playing in the courtyard, Olga is frankly

A vigorous woman of liberal views who, in cramped classtooms and on a small salary, has done her best for race relations in her city, she is certainly no defeatist. But she has no illusions about the future course of politics and community life in this depressed corner of France in the shadow of the Pyrenees.

The tide immigrants across the Mediterranean from Muslim North Africa is inexorable; the local French reaction is getting tougher month by month; the National Front of Jean-Marie Le Pen, which wants immigrants out, already commands the loyalty of a third of the voters of Perpignan

and is bound to get stronger.

Politics in Perpignan, as in other European cities great and small from Bremen to Brindisi, are swinging to the right because of immigration.

Overtly racist parties such as the National Front and the Republikaner in Germany are having a field day. Moderate conservatives are scrabbling after their voters, terrified lest the extremists woo away any more of that middle class on whom the moderate right has always de-

The left, supposedly committed to greater internationalism than the right, has the hard job of seeking policies which are at the same time saleable and humane. Fearful lest turmoil in the East push millions of Slavs and eastern Europeans to seek peace and prosperity in the West and alarmed at the prospect of new waves of immigration from the Maghreb and the whole southern shore of the Mediterranean and from Africa beyond - politicians are being forced to get to grips with a set of problems which, all are agreed, can only

As an increasingly depressed Third World stirs and begins to move, immigration will throw its shadow over public life in Europe. The drive of migrants towards the rich countries of Western Europe, strongly influenced as it is by the global contrast in standards of living between the poor South and the rich North, could produce as many problems for Europe in the years to come as the cold war ever did. Perhans more.

At an international conference in Rome sometime ago the Vatican talked of "hundreds of millions of people on the move." In the frightened, violent port of Marseilles, where North Africans are in the vast majority in many districts, Le Méridional, the local daily, has recalled words of Houari Boumedienne, the Algerian nationalist leader; "No atomic bomb will stop our peoples one day invading the rich spaces of the northern hemis-

The impact of the migration issue goes through infinite gradations in Europe from city to city and village to village depending on whether immigrants are black or white, Christian or Muslim; on whether the local economy is booming or struggling; on whether local politicians are skilful or clever; or on whether, as in Germany, the roots of a racist ideology are still alive. With up to 10 million non-EC immigrants settled among the 320 million inhabitants of the Community and tens of millions more trying to crowd in, it is rare for any part of Europe to be completely unaffected. Europe, after all, needs workers as birth rates slump: only in Ireland is the birth rate in-

In Germany, in recent weeks, batred of immigrants has boiled up in public and demonstrated that democratic and united Germany can still produce ugliness that smells of the Nazi era. The extreme right commands enormous electoral funds. Police reaction against racial extremists in Germany has often been halting - perhaps because, as opinion polls show, the police sympathise with them.

Günther Schultze, a sociologist of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, says: "Discrimination against foreigners is now routine, blood is again flowing from German nationalism." In Belgium, the Vlaams Blok in Flanders and the National Front in Wallonia which advocate compulsory repatriation of immigrants - are expected to make big gains in the

general elections.

Nor is progressive Scandinavia an exception. The Progress Party of Denmark, whose leader Mogens Glistrup won a fifth of the electorate by campaigning against taxation, owed part of his success to an appeal to xenophobia. And this summer there have been demonstrations outside Copenhagen against immigra-

Perpignan, a stronghold of French nationalism, is a place of narrow streets, ancient buildings and pleasant squares which dozes in the sun, half remembering the times long past when it belonged to Spain. It is a city of some cultural pretensions: it has a university and it wants to become known for its annual festival for news photographers. But below the quiet surface, Perpignan is a political snakepit. "Perpignan is hardly any better than Marseilles. just more hypocritical," says Marguerite, a teacher.

Votes have traditionally been bought and sold in Perpignan, with the thriving gypsy community among the most active traders. The city boss, Jacques Farran, is under investigation for corrupt practices. "Under all the different political labels we've had the same gang in power here in Perpignan for 50 years. It's disgusting," says Marguerite. After France was forced out of its Algerian colony three decades ago, the city welcomed a large number of "pieds noirs," white colonists who were forced off the land they cultivated and out of their country of adoption by the victorious Algerian aationalists.

"The pieds noirs are a big political force here," says Claude Bébon, an independent-minded member of the regional assembly and a rather insubordinate member of the Socialist Party. He talks wistfully. "When those men worked the land in Algeria they were often communists or good socialists," he says. "Now they're far to the right.

The Maghrebins — the Algerians and their Moroccan and Tunisian cousins — who got rid of French colonialism in the 1950s, are meanwhile following the French into their own country, as Boumedienne forecast. The political temperature is rising in the

At 7 a.m., in the scruffy Place Casanyes, not far from the old palace of the Kings of Majorca, the scene is reminiscent of the New Testament. The Maghrebins stand, each with his lunch in a plastic carrier bag, waiting to be hired for a day's work in the fields, in the vineyards or on the building sites. In this depressed city they often wait in vain. By eight o'clock the Place is filled with rickety tables and wobbly camp beds where stallholders heap the cheap shirts and secondhand skirts that the North African men and women buy. No one can guarantee that drugs are not traded among all the tatty clothing.

The increasing number of Muslims and the competition for work is day by day pushing the whites into the arms of Le Pen - and not just in Perpignan, says Bébon. Pointing to the recent remarks by former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing about a migrant "invasion," Mr. Bébon emphasises how the respectable right throughout France is being drawn into deep controversy on the issue. "By choosing the word "invasion," a very painful word for the French, Mr. Giscard who is no fool - was consciously equating immigrants with barbahe says. Mr. Giscard's words brought him an immediate dividend; a poll last week showed him to be the politician with whom the French identity.

Meanwhile, the increasingly fearful Muslims of Perpignan are doing their own mobilising and Islamic fundamentalism is gaining a toehold. In the immigrant quarter of St. Jacques, fundamental-ists have threatened to punish Algerian grocers if they contradict the Koran and sell alcohol. At the town hall, Philippe Laborie, spokesman for a council which survives in office with the support of the National Front, admits race relations are "a thorny subject." Here in Perpignan we are much nearer to Africa than you English, but," he smirks, "you English are much nearer Asia. All those Pakistanis

you've got..." As photographer Roger Hutchings and I leave, we are shown how thorny immigration is. Ner-vous CRS riot police, heedless of the city's drive to attract news photographers, force Hutchings to expose and destroy film he had

taken of checks on immigrants at the railway station.

Italy, which despite its Fascist past has never rivalled Germany xenophobia, is now waking up to the reality of racism. Accustomed - like Spain, Portugal and Greece — to sending surplus population abroad rather than welcoming incomers, Italians are struggling with a new political phenomenon. Racism has found some strange bedfellows. In an outburst last year, Mgr. Ersilio Tonnini, the Archbishop of Ravenna, complained that Europe was being Islamicised and that peoples of different cultures, religions and races could not live

Milan the glittering capital of Lombardy, has been the focus of increasingly bitter debate. It has seen the rise of the Lega Nord, a movement that embodies the Lombards' ancient distrust of Italians from less productive parts of the country. Playing to the Lombards' convictions that the hopelessly corrupt government in Rome does nothing but squander the hard-earned money seized in taxes from the industrious northerners and that all Italians living south of Rome are congenitally sick, lame and lazy, the Lega Nord wants an independent Lombardy with its capital in Mantua.

But the Lega, which is less of a traditional party than a mass movement without a set of carefully worked out policies, is also tapping Lombards' fears of the foreign immigrant. A poll last month in the newspaper, "Il Giornale," showed that half the voters considered the Lega racist and two-thirds believed that in the spring elections it would win more than a quarter of the votes cast. One Lombard in two finds the Lega leader Umberto Bossi "well-informed, honest, cultured and friendly." "The Lega will certainly be gaining ground," says a senior diplomat in Milan.

Italy is the European country that is most directly accessible to migrants from the Slavic East and the African South. With a land frontier with Yugoslavia and with tens of thousands of ethnic Italians living along the Dalmatian coast, the Italian government is this weekend bracing itself for a new influx of refugees from the Yugoslav civil war. And with the Yugoslav civil war. And with the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, longest coastline in the three out of 10 of the tiny popula-Mediterranean it has no chance tion are migrants, but racism is keeping out migrants from the

SOUTH. 'We can never really seal our frontiers," says Enzo, a social worker in Florence. Under its energetic socialist mayor, Giorgio Morales, that city is doing what it can for racial harmony. The Florentines, who pride themselves on their culture and humanity — and who don't want to lose their fabulously valuable tourist business - got a terrible

fright last year.
Shopkeepers had long complained about street traders from overseas — extracommunictar from outside the EC - and Florentines in general had been worried about immigrants trading in drugs. During carnival, masked revellers beat three migrants nearly to death. Then black Africans went on hunger strike outside the cathedral. The headlines went round the world and something urgent had to be done.

Sitting in his magnificent office in the Palazzo Vecchio last week Mr. Morales explained his policy. "It's one of solidarity with the immigrant — combined with enforcement of the law." The extracommunitari traders have been cleared from outside the elegant shop windows and given pitches in other spots where they can catch the tourist's eye. The city has meanwhile laid on Italian classes for immigrants and set up centres where new arrivals can stay for up to 60 days.

Mr Morales is paying voluntary aid agencies to set up creches and nurseries so that disadvantaged Italian and immigrant children can be cared for together. "But." says Mr. Morales, "there's a limit on what one city can do. Migration is a national question. Perhaps even a supranational

Among all the fears about the future, there is still a feeling that violent racism is not inevitable in Europe. There is still hope that with good will and realism, extremists of all persuasions can be held in check Rino Perbellini, the archbishop of Florence's expert on migrant affairs, is clear... There is no way immigrants can be totally excluded. There's no substitute for treating them like the human beings they are."

In the heart of the continent, the country with the highest immigration rate of all in Europe sets an intriguing example. In the has prevailed somewhere. — Observer.

## U.S.-Japan trade frictions rise ahead of Bush Tokyo visit

By Robert Trautman

WASHINGTON — Alreadysour U.S.-Japan trade relations have been hit by new setbacks just before President George Bush's visit to Tokyo in the new

When Mr. Bush's Dec. 30-Jan. 10 visit to Japan, Singapore, Australia and South Korea was first mentioned, he suggested it would be used for renewing geo-political ties in a post-cold war climate. BUT NOW U.S. officials say it

could instead trigger trade clashes as Mr. Bush shifts the talks onto ways to create more job opportunines for Americans. Referring to the countries on

his trip he told a Thursday press conference: "I think they'll understand when this trip is over to the degree there are barriers than make this trade less than fair, that they better to something

With election-year politics prominent, three merging themes of the last few months triggered the switch in tactics.

The first was an intensifying spotlight on the rising U.S. trade deficit in cars and car parts when General Motors announced last week it would close 21 North American plants, shedding 74,000 workers.

The second was soaring current account surplus in Tokyo's favour and the third Japan's refusal to open its rice market to foreign imports.

Already Mr. Bush has warned Japan about rising protectionism in America, saying in a pre-visit letter to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa he opposes restrictions on Japanese imports but adding: 'I need your help.''

In his news conference, Mr. Bush made plain his view: "I'm not going to turn protectionist. I just believe that we need to expand markets, not contract them," he said.

This country went through a disastrous experience with protectionism years ago and we're not going to do it again. We must not go back to this isolationistic sphere that inevitably will shrink markets and throw more people out of work.' But Mr. Bush's opposition has

not stopped House Democratic leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri and four Michigan congressmen — from states which are home to major car plants unveiling plans to submit legislation to force Japan into balancing trade with the United States within five yers or face sanctions on its car and car-parts shipments.
With U.S. trade deficit wi

Japan at about \$40 billion, 75 per cent of it cars and car-parts, the

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nished.

Democrats will use to batter Republicans in the 1992 congressional and presidential elections.

On Thursday, Japan's Finance three-fold increase in its current account balance of payments surplus, the broadest measure of trade in good and services, which widened to a \$7.26 billion surplus in November from a 1.69 billion surplus in November last year. Alongside general complaints

about numbers, Mr. Bush is bound to raise in Tokyo Japan's specific decision to maintain its ban on imports of foreign rice in the face of demands for change from United States and other industrial countries.

Trading partners want Japan to drop the ban as part of efforts to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Its refusal could contribute to a breakdown of work on reforms to the world trading rules after five

Diplomatic sources say Mr. Bush is likely to be met in Tokyo with assurances that its latest efforts to balance bilateral trade will work in time for example. decisions by the Japanese automakers Toyota, Nissan and Honda to increase the value of car parts they buy from U.S. sup-

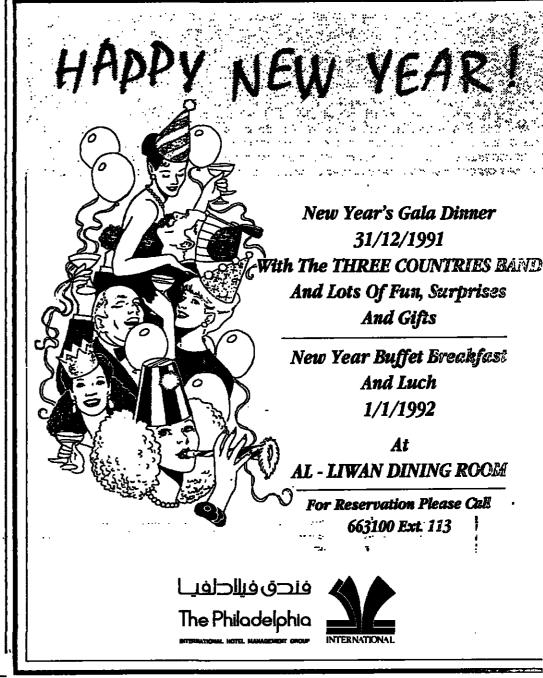
But Japan made similar assurances in the past, and many U.S. businessmen and politicians see only minimal results, some suggesting informal barriers operated by private businesses in Japan are now the main obstacle.

Japanese business practices have being discussed over the last two vears by a Japan-U.S. group known as the Structural Impedi-

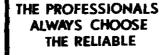
"But the business community is left with the impression that a lot of the momentum is gone from the SII talks," said one trade

Mr. Bush's visit is likely to give them new impetus. "I think the major problem is to have the people that run the business enterprises in the various countries we're going to understand how difficult trange are for the American worker... and how important it is to gain access — further access -

these foreign markets," Mr. Bush



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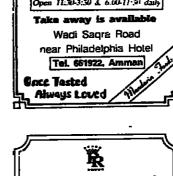




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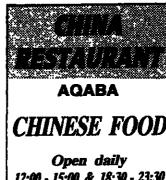
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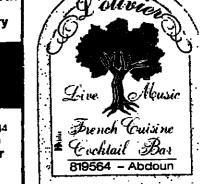
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### Germans advance in Hopman Cup

PERTH, Australia (AP) - German tennis giants Boris Becker and Steffi Graf swept aside the French duo of Henri Leconte and Julie Halard Monday night, advancing to the semifinals of the Hopman Cup exhibition tennis tournament.

Becker, who twice stood at the summit in 1991 but is now ranked No. 3 in the world, played blazing tennis to overpower Davis Cup hero Leconte 6-2, 6-4.

The victory gave the German team an unbeatable 2-0 lead after Graf, the world's No. 2-ranked woman player behind Monica Seles, defeated Halard 6-0, 7-5. Graf was feeling ill and with-

drew from the scheduled mixed doubles match alongside Becker. Hopman Cup organiser Paul McNamee said Graf had a bad cold and a high temperature, but would have played if the match was needed to decide the contest against the French team.

Halard won just seven points in the first set against the German's serve in the second, breaking in the seventh and ninth games.

Breaks by Graf in the sixth, eighth and 12th games gave her the victory.

Becker, who missed the Grand Slam Cup three weeks ago be-cause of a virus, looked in supreme touch with his power game. sending down six aces to Leconte's one.

His only lapse was losing his serve in the eighth game of the The Germans will play Czechos-

lovakia in a semifinal either Wednesday or Thursday. Czechoslovakia's Karel

Novacek and Helena Sukova combined for an emphatic mixed doubles victory earlier Monday, eliminating the third-seeded U.S. team of Derrick Rostagno and Amy Frazier from the tournament

Novacek and Sukova downed Rostagno and Frazier 6-2, 6-1 in the decisive doubles after the teams were locked at 1-1 following the singles.
Sukova defeated Frazier 7-6

(7-3), 6-7 (5-7) in a marathon opening women's singles at the

Perth Superdome, but Rostagno leveled the contest with a 6-0, 6-3 triumph over Novacek in the men's singles.

The Czechoslovak pair said their quarterfinal victory was sparked by anger at being seeded 'We were unhappy when we

got here and found we were the No. 5 seeds," said Novacek. "Both of us wanted to prove to ourselves, the tournament organisers and the other players that we deserved a higher placing."

Second-seeded Spain, which has yet to play, will meet the Netherlands in a quarterfinal Tuesday.

The winning combination will share \$110,000, the runner-up will share \$62,500.

The Hopman Cup is one of a number of warm-up events for the Australian Open, to be played Jan. 13-26 at the National ennis Centre in Melbourne.

Despite her condition, Graf took just 62 minutes to overcome Halard 6-0, 7-5.

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) --

South Africa's Christo van Rens-

burg fought off three match

points to beat third seed Javier

Sanchez of Spain 7-5, 6-7 (4-7), 7-6 (7-5) Monday in the first

round of the \$182,500 Australian

Hardcourt Tennis Cham-

Van Rensburg, 29, was down

0-40 at 4-5 in the 10th game of the

third set but then held serve and

finally won a thrilling contest in

Hubert Auriol took over from

compatriot and Mitsubishi team

mate Bruno Saby after the 520-

km fourth stage of the Paris-Cape

Auriol, winner of the first Afri-

can stage Thursday, repeated his feat after a close finish in Tumu,

Niger, beating four times Paris-

Dakar winner Ari Vatanen of

Finland in a Citroen by nearly

Saby, the French rally cham-

pion who is driving in the desert

for the first time, lost previous

ground in a crash halfway

Auriol, the only race entrant to

have taken part in all 13 Paris-

Dakar races, which he won twice,

another Mitsubishi by seven mi-

nutes and 59 seconds, according

Spain's Salvador Servia, driv-

Despite Saby's mishap, the

Mitsubishis continued their

sweep by placing three cars in the

top four.
In the motorcycle section,
France's Stephane Peterhansel on

a Yamaha scored his second stage

win of the rally ahead of Amer-

ican Danny Laporte, on a Cagiva.

to provisional overall standings.

ing a Lada, was third a further 37

ed Japan's Kenjiro Shinozul

Sanchez was the first to exit sets.

the tie-break.

Town Rally.

eight minutes.

through the stage.

seconds behind.

Sanchez 1st seed to tumble

in Australian Hardcourt

Auriol takes over lead in

PARIS (R) - Frenchman after they were stuck in "the

the stage.

Peterhansel.

assistance came.

**Paris-Cape Town rally** 

Graf was in an obvious hurry to finish the job. But in the second set she tired dramaticaly, dropping her serve at 4-2 and 5-3 before fighting back to break Halard in the 10th game and to love in the 12th.

Becker never let Leconte into their match, which lasted 79 mi-

The German was clearly delighted by his form. "I had an excellent start. My serve was good. I was moving well and I felt very good."

Early in the match a ballboy felt the full power of the Becker backhand. Attempting a fierce passing shot from the baseline the German miscued and the ball struck the boy in the head, knocking him senseless.

Becker and Leconte raced to the boy's aid and revived him with ice and water.

Becker said he expected Graf to be ready for Wednesday's match. "She needs a good night's sleep. She only arrived this morning so that's probably another reason she's not feeling so good."

among eight seeded players. Ger-

man sixth seed Carl-Uwe Steeb

advanced to round two with a 6-1.

6-4 victory over Italian Renzo

The left-hander, ranked 38th in

the world, faced Sterner opposi-

tion from Furlan than indicated

Earlier Monday, Swedish

teenager Thomas Enqvist rallied to defeat fellow qualifier Axel

Finnberg of Germany in three

wedding pass halfway through

Italy's Alesandro de Petri, on a

Yamaha, finished fourth to retain

his overall lead ahead of

Saby rolled his Mitsubishi and

Shinozuka stopped for a couple

of minutes to help the Frenchman

right the vehicle but Saby still had

to wait for the service truck to fix

The Citroens all suffered

punctures with Vatanen and

Sweden's Bjorn Waldegard both

having to drive 300-400 km with

no spare after two blow-outs at

gard said. "It was very stony and

rocky and we were very luck not

Auriol found his Paris-Dakar

"The course was rough in

places but not as difficult as last

year," he said. "The jumps were

very tricky, you couldn't see them across the flat desert.

in the sea, about 30 or 40 cen-

timetres high, but they were very

sharp and when you hit them you

jump very high," Auriol said.

"They were like small waves

to have more punctures."

experience helped.

"It was a nightmare," Walde-

his broken rear suspension.

then had a long wait in the scorching desert heat before

by the score.

### **SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Lewis voted Champion of the Year

PARIS (R) - Carl Lewis, the world's fastest man, was voted sports champion of 1991 by a panel of experts from the prestigious French sports daily L'Equipe Monday. Lewis, who broke the 100 metres world record at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo in August, just pipped fellow-American Mike Powell for the award. The winner also in 1983 and 1984, Lewis received 215 points in the voting to 213 for Powell, who beat Bob Beamon's 23-year-old world long jump record. Brazilian racing driver Ayrton Senna, who won the Formula One world title for the third time, was third on 134 points.

#### Porto overtakes Benfica at top

LISBON (R) - Porto stayed top of the Portuguese Soccer League on goal difference after champions Benfica were held 1-1 at home by lowly Penafiel. Porto took over after beating Gil Vicente 1-0 thanks to a penalty conceded in the dying minutes by substitute Ernst Remco who left two munutes after he came on. The Dutchman handled a cross from Porto striker Domingos Oliveira and was then sent off for arguing with the referee. Captain Joao Pinto scored from the spot. Porto, who have a game in hand, are level with Benfica on 24 points. Champions Benfica went ahead in the 42nd minute through Swede Matts Magnusson but Penafiel hit back a minute later with a goal from unmarked striker Antonio Rebelo.

#### Zoff to extend contract at Lazio

ROME (R) - Lazio coach Dino Zoff was poised to sign a new contract tying him to the Roman first division club until June 1994. "I've spoken with the club President (Gian Marco Calleri) and there are no problems," said Zoff, the goalkeeper on Italy's 1982 World Cup-winning team. "I like the atmosphere here and I'm happy to continue with the work which is starting to bear fruit," he said. Zoff, 48, who joined Lazio in May 1990 after having previously coached Juventus, is expected to sign a new contract in the next few days. Lazio, fourth in the Italian first division, also had good news from unsettled Uruguayan midfielder Ruben Sosa. "You could say there is a 70 per cent probability that I will stay in Rome," said Sosa, recently linked with a move to Real Madrid or Napoli at the end of the season. Sosa fears the forthcoming arrival of England midfielder Paul Gascoigne may deprive him of regular first team football. Gascoigne, currently recovering from a serious knee injury, will move to Lazio for \$10 million providing he passes a medical examination on May 31.

#### Shriver scores revenge victory

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — American veteran Pam Shriver Monday scored her first singles victory since mid-October, defeating Akiko Kijimuta of Japan 6-4, 6-4 in the first round of the \$150,000 Danone Queensland Open. Shriver avenged a defeat by Kijimuta in the first round of the same tournament last year. The two-time champion, back to 37th in the world rankings after recovering from shoulder surgery, hit too hard and served too accurately for her out-gunned opponent, who was the beaten finalist here 12 months ago. "I was a little unsure of now I would play, but for the most part I didn't make too many mistakes," Shriver said. "If I play consistently well, serve well, I think I can get through a few rounds, but it is far too early to think about being a contender." Shriver now plays Mana Endo of Japan, a 6-1, 6-4 victor over American Stacey Martin. The ninth-seeded Shriver was joined in the second round of the 56-woman event by 12th-seeded compatriot Linda Harvey-Wild and 13th-seeded fellow American Debbie Graham. Harvey-Wild hit some excellent groundstrokes in defeating experienced German Eva Pfaff 6-1, 6-3, while Graham downed Karin Kschwendt of Germany 6-4, 7-6 (7-3).

#### Volkov advances in N. Zealand

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) - Top-seeded Alexander Volkov of Russia defeated Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands 6-4. 6-4 Monday in the first round of the \$182,500 BP Nationals Tennis Championship. Three other seeded players were eliminated while Volkov advanced to the last 16. Italian Diego Nargiso ousted Taime Oncins 6-1, 0-6 Lars Koslowski beat sixth-seeded Dutchman Mark Koevermans 7-6 (9-7), 6-4. American Jeff Tarango, a former college star at Stanford University, defeated eighth-seeded Swede Lars Jonsson 6-2, 6-2. Jonsson made the final of this event in 1990, losing to Australian Richard Fromberg.

#### Sunderland manager to step down

SUNDERLAND, England, (R) — Denis Smith agreed Monday to quit as manager of English soccer club Sunderland, who are 18th in the second division after being relegated from the first division last season. His departure after 4-1/2 years in charge reflects a frustrating season for the club, who started as favourites for promotion to the new premier league.

#### Man. United stays 2 points clear after draw at Leeds

LONDON (R) - Manchester United kept their two-point lead in the English Soccer League Sunday after a controversial 1-1 draw at second-placed Leeds.

Both sides had lost only once in the league before the clash, the first of three league and cup matches at Elland Road in two weeks, but it was a game Leeds could have won.

While there was no arguing against Neil Webb's well-taken 46th-minute volley which put United ahead, Leeds were furious to have what looked like a clear equaliser disallowed.

ted home only to find the referee had already whistled for a foul seconds before by Webb on

Leeds midfielder David Batty. While Leeds clearly felt the referee should have allowed play to continue, they refused to be demoralised and picked up a deserved late equaliser with an

80th-minute penalty. Midfielder Gary McAllister, sent clear by team mate Gordon Strachan, was sent crashing in the area by England defender Gary Pallister and Mel Sterland con-

verted from the spot.

The draw left Manchester United with 48 points while Leeds

### Lee Chapman, clearly onside and beautifully positioned, slot-Soviet chess grandmasters pose nationality problem

REGGIO EMILIA, Italy (R) -There are no national flags on view at the highest-ranked tournament in chess history which features nine grandmasters from the former Soviet Union.

Organisers of the International Category 18 Tournament decided that placing flags on the table would create too many headaches in view of the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

"Maybe the best solution was to play without flags," said grandmaster Alexander Khalifman. "If the organisers had allowed it I would play under the flag of Russia because I lived in Lening-

rad," added Khalifman, now dent in Germany. Lev Polugayevsky also said he would play under the Russian flag despite living in Paris, while Vasily Ivanchuk and Alexander Belyavsky would opt to represent

Ukraine. Boris Gelfand would compete for Byelorussia while exiles Mikhail Gurevich and Valery Salov wanted to display the colours of their adopted countries,

Belgium and Spain respectively. "In the last tournaments I have played under the flag of Belgium. I live in Brussels and have no wish to return to Russia," said

Gurevich. "I would like to get the citizenship of Spain and to play under the flag of Spain," Salov

said. World champion Garry Kasparov and former world champion Anatoly Karpov did not disclose their preferences.

WITH OMAR SHARIF , & TANNAH HIRSCH

North-South vulnerable. South

**★ K 10 8 6 4 2** ♥ 7 5 2

EAST

\$ 5 ♥ 10 9 8 4 3

NORTE

♦ A Q

\$3 \$5 7Q6 7109 \$J10958 \$K6

SOUTH **AQJ97** ♥ A K J

The bidding:
South West North East
1 2 NT 4 5 5
Pass Pass 5 4 Pass

Opening lead: Queen of # We are not enamored of the Un-

usual No Trump overcall. If you do

Pass Pass

WEST

Kasparov played under the Russian flag in his World Cham-

pionship clash with Karpov in 1990 while Karpov stuck to the Soviet Union colours.

Kasparov said he expected to maintain his title until the end of the century but added he would like to defend it against someone other than Karpov in Los Angeles in 1993.

"I would prefer to play my next match with somebody else, not Kaprov," he said. "We have played five matches and 160 games and become boring for the

Karpov plays Britain's Nigel Short in Spain next April in the semifinal of the candidate match-

Karpov put up a splendid defensive performance Sunday to salvage a draw in his clash with Kasparov in the highest-ranked

event in chess history.

Kasparov, with black pieces, opened with a king's Indian defence in the third round of the International Category 18 Tournament and looked poised for victory after going two pawns

But Karpov fought back, winning one pawn and eventually finding the only route to salvation with both knights left on the

board. The appreciative crowd warmly applauded both players at the end of a six-hour, 61-move struggle. Sunday's games attracted about 2,000 spectators, many of

whom waited for hours to get into one of the three halls. Kasparov meets Vassily Ivanchuk in the fourth round while Kaprov plays Alexander Khalif-

caeded in pushing North-South to the five-level and, since the five-level belongs to the opponents, East

decided to let North-South struggle. West led the queen of clubs, covered by the king and won by the ace. Declarer ruffed the club continua-

tion and drew trumps in one round, and it might seem that the contract hinged on either a finesse for the

queen of hearts or the king of dia-monds succeeding. Judging from the suction, both figured to be right; however, a glance at the diagram suffices to show that, had declarer

looked no deeper into the position the contract would have been

Fortunately, declarer spotted that

the heart finesse was an illusion— the contract could be guaranteed as long as West held no more than two

hearts, almost a sure bet in light of the bidding and the fact that West

Declarer cashed the ace and king of hearts. As it happened, the queen dropped and the contract coasted home. Had it not appeared, declarer would have continued hearts, sur-

rendering a trick to East. That de-

fender would have been endplayed into either yielding a ruff-sluff or else leading a diamond into dum-my's ace-queen tenace. Either way, declarer would not have lost more

had produced a trump.

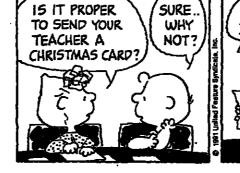
than a heart and a club.

**GOREN BRIDGE** 

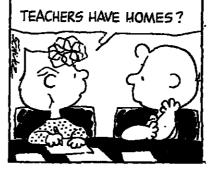
HEART IN THE RIGHT PLACE

### The two fought an uphill battle

**Peanuts** 







#### **Andy Capp**



#### Mutt'n'Jeff



#### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY DECEMBER 31, 1991 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

and get his suggestions on how to rid yourself of the undestrable fac-GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today you will have a unique opportunity to sit back and observe what is happening. Avoid doing anything until you have the chance to LIBRA: (September 23 to October

evaluate things that are of current concern to you. ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You find one of your family is now in a position to render that favour

that means so much to you and that can open new vistas of achieve-TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) There is some surprise visitor or chance for you to make a call that turns out far better than you had

imagined possible so be on the ball

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) There are a number of close companions who have some practical ideas by which you can have more of the good things of life so listen to understand their suggestions.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Now you have it in your power to gain the goodwill of that personal chum who means so much to you and you can join in social LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Make sure that you carefully study what-

you privately enjoy the most espe-cially with romantic attachment. VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You now can talk out with that good friend that personal problem that has been of concern to you

ever data that will bring you the

outlets that can be the ones that

22) Whatever you would like to do that means bringing to light the various talents with which you are endowed before those who can make them a worldly success is good right now. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) There are a number of interesting new situations which

1.44

face you and there are the means by which you can have success in these new outlets. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to

December 21) You have lots to do

and much is expected of you by others also so take time out to think just how you can perform such tasks exactly and efficiently. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Now you can come to a real meeting of minds with those who mean the most to you and you find there a 2 quite a number of points of difference that can be

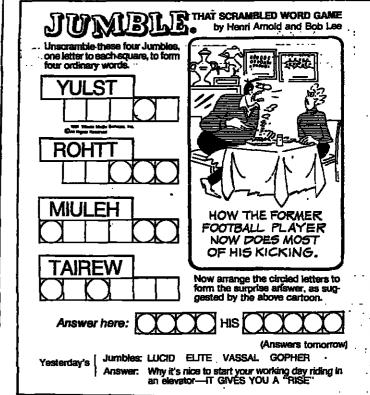
settled.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) There are a considerable number of tasks facing you and as you are unhappy when not busy get at them and put them behind you as quickly as you can.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You can have a very happy time during your spare moments now so think out what you would like to do the most and waste no time in making the arrangements



"What's good for a migraine?"



THE Daily Crossword by Kenneth Witte





11 One first on a e.g.
12 Jason's ship
13 Booty
18 Belg: river
23 Director's directive
25 Swiss river
25 Symbol
28 Measure of I flow
30 Nautical tarn
31 Ultewise
32 Clarp
33 Solo

52 Not a soul
54 Praise
55 Palid
56 Leave
57 Helicopter
60 Actress Miles
61 — Lansing,
Mich.
62 Fancing with
bamboo sticks
63 Conclusies

63 Concludes 64 June 6, 1944 65 Garden tool

DOWN Traits

2 Egyptian dem 3 Religious art work 4 Fruit drink

32 Catanp 33 Solo 34 Star hoopster 35 Glant killer 36 Dive 38 Bride or groom 42 Dick or Jerry 44 Koppel 45 Offensive

47 Small amounts 48 Comic Feldman 49 Flying 50 En —I

52 Glacial field 53 Yoked beast 54 Mona — 58 Owned

#### want to use it, we suggest you limit its application either to very weak hands, where you are looking for a sacrifice, or very strong hands, where you intend to buy the contract or double the opponents. With intermediate hands, it is better to try to bid both of your suits rather than employ the convention. Given our thoughts on the Unusual No Trump, you will have gathered that, at this vulnerability, we do not mind West's overcail. It suc-



New York Close	Tokyo Niddoy	
Pair 27/12/91	P-30/12/91	
1.8742	1.6075	
1.5188	1.5010	
1.5518	1.3541	
5,1905	5.:8/8 **	
105.90	125.75	
1.3345	1.3360 **	
	Close  thate 27/12/91  1.57-72  1.5188  1.3518  5.1405  105.40	

HOCHTONCY Interest Ra	rtes		Date:	30/12/199
Currency	I MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.18	4.12	4.10	1.86
Starting Pound	10.51	10.55	10.55	10.51
tetische Mark	9.50	9.56	9.65	9.43
Sales Franc	7.87	7-87	7.43	7.87
pench Franc	10.31	10.31	10.25	10.12
Japanese Yen	5.68	5.60	5.43	5.25
European Currency Unit	10.5C	10.50	10.50	10.19

				Date:	30/12/199
ldefel .	USD/Oz	JD'Gm	Metal	L'SD O2	JD/Gm
Geld	353.50	6.50	Silver	3.87	0.055
A Kura					<u> </u>

Cantral Bank	of Jordan	Exchange	Rate	Builetin

	Date:	30/12/199
Сиптейсу	Bid	Offer
153. Dellar	0.6740	0.6760
Sterling Pound	1.2584	1.2647
Deposite Mark	3.4426	0.4448
Swiss Franc	v.+973	0.2998
French Franc	0.1296	0.1300
Japanese Yen	0.5351	J.5376
Dutch Guilder	0.3925	0.3945
Swedish Krona	0.1211	0.1217
Italian Lira	0.0584	0.0567
Belgian Franc	0.02150	0.02161
Per 180	<del></del>	

Mist Carrencies	Date:	30/12/1991
Corrency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7590	1.7620
Lebanese Lira*	0.0766	0.0770
Sandi Riyal	0.1794	0.1800
Kuwaiti Dinar		
Qatari Riyal	0.1526	0.1835
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2120
Omani Riyai .	1.7250	1.7330
UAE Dirhem	0.1826	0.1835
Greex Drachma <sup>2</sup>	0.3725	0.3745
Cypriot Pound	1.5310	1.5425

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Index	28/12/1991 Close	29/12/1997 Class
Ali-Share	129. 54	129. 72
Banking Sector	106. 72	106. 82
Insurance Sector	129. 45	129. 29
Industry Sector	163. 23	163. 47
Services Sector	143. 69	144. 47

#### **LONDON EXCHANGE RATES**

LONDON (R) - Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

1.8735/45

me Sterning	1.0/33/2	O.O
ne U.S. dollar	1.1588/93	Canadian dollar
AND C.S. COMM	1.5170/80	Deutschemarks
	1.7170/00	Dutch guilders
	1.7090/7100	Swiss francs
	1.3505/15	
	31.23/28	Belgian francs
	5.1780/1880	French francs
	1148/1149	Italian lire
		Japanese yen
	125.80/90	
	5.440/5540	Swedish crowns
	5.9750/9850	Norwegian crowns
	5.9050/9150	Danish crowns
me munce of gold	353,20/353.70	U.S. dollars
we ware or boin	JJJ.20, JJJ. 10	

### Banks catch Bond after 6-day chase

SYDNEY (R) — Failed tycoon Alan Bond, once called Australia's corporate houdini. was unable Monday to escape being served with a bankruptcy notice.

After a six-day chase, agents ecting for a group of banks caught Mr. Bond at Sydney's Kingsford-Smith Airport to serve him with the 251 million dollar (\$190 million) notice.

Solicitor Hamish Young, acting for a group of banks led by the Hongkongbank of Australia Ltd., told reporters the notice was served after Mr. Bond arrived on an early-morning flight from Bali. It requires Mr. Bond to pay the amount within 28 days.

Mr. Bond said "thank you, folded the notice and put it in his pocket, Mr. Young added.

The notice was the second Mr. Bond has received from the same ' group of banks over a personal guarantee he gave on a loan to his family company, Dallhold Investments PTY Ltd.

Mr. Bond sued the banks in September saying the bankruptcy notice was invalid, but lost the

A few days later the former tycoon was chased by a court official in a car after leaving home and was finally handed the notice in a Perth parking lot.

But the notice was later deemed invalid on technical grounds, and a fresh notice -Christmas. Process servers spent Paterniti said. the Christmas holidays stalking

ments tendered to the courts that he had a deficiency of assets over cy proceedings against Mr. Bond in the Federal Court.

Once among the cream of Australia's entrepreneurs, Mr. Bond built up his Bond Corp Holdings Ltd. into a 10 billion dollar (\$7.6 billion) brewing, media, resources and real estate empire in the 1980s.

At his peak, he paid 49 million

dollars (\$37 million) for the Van Gogh painting "Irises," was made Australian of the year, and became the first successful foreigner in 132 years to wrest the America's Cup yachting trophy from the United States.

But after racking up huge debts and reporting one of the country's biggest corporate losses Mr. Bond resigned in September 1990 as Bond Črop. chairman, leaving the company restructuring itself to stave off liquidation. In Perth, Mr. Bond's solictor

Stephen Paterniti said he would

seek a stay of the judgment handed down in September by making an application to the New South Wales Court of Appeal.

Mr. Paterniti said even if the stay application failed, Mr. Bond

would seek special leave to appeal to the High Court, Australia's highest court, against the original judgment. "If successful it would mean his

obligation to pay is completely expunged," he said.

An application to the High Court might not be made for which the banks say removes the technicality — was issued before court's Sydney sittings, Mr.

He said if the stay application Mr. Bond's house, to no avail. failed and the 28-day period for Mr. Bond has said in statepayment expired, the banks would still have to start bankrupt-

### **UAE** shares end year on high note

prices in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) ended 1991 on a high note, up 26.1 per cent on their value a year ago, the National Bank of Abu Dhabi

The bank, which has its own share index in the absence of anofficial stock exchange, said the index closed at 1,506.6 on Dec. 30, compared with 1,119.9 on

Dec. 30, 1990. It said the unofficial market recovered significantly from March, shortly after the end of

the Gulf war. The bank, whose index meait did not have a figure for the total volume of shares traded. It said only one public company was floated in 1991.

The crisis at the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), a major force in the UAE economy, kept investors away in the second half of the

But the report said investor confidence had returned graduaily in November and December with the expectation that comexpected in 1991.

### **WORLD STOCK MARKETS**

SYDNEY - TOKYO - Stocks soared after the Bank of Japan cut the official discount rate by one half of a percentage point to 4.5 per cent. The Nikkei average rose briefly above the 23,000 mark on the last day of 1991 trading before closing 546.45 points up at 22,983.77.

PARIS — Share prices finished higher in slender holiday trade, with last minute purchases for end-of-year accounts pushing up prices. The CAC-40 Index closed 21.21 points or 1.23 per cent higher at 1,741.86.

LONDON — Sharp gains for drug shares and a stronger New York market took the FTSE 100 index to a marginally higher close with sentiment kept in check by sterling worries. The index ended 1.3 points up at 2,420.

NEW YORK - Blue chips surged to fresh session highs in the early afternoon, continuing last week's record rise. At 1742 GMT, the Dow was up 33.32 at 3,134.84.

HONG KONG - The market rose on the back of rallies in Tokyo and New York. The Hang Seng Index closed 39.00 points higher

SINGAPORE - Share prices closed higher for the fifth consecutive session. The Blue-chip Straits Times Industrial Index finished 9.11 points up at 1,476.98.

BOMBAY — The market was closed from Dec. 25 to 31 for the Christmas holiday. The BSE index finished last Tuesday at 1,908.85, down 6.27 points.

### Britain resists devaluation of sterling

LONDON (R) - Britain's conservative government Monday resisted pressure to devalue the pound sterling or to raise interest rates despite new signs of economic stagnation in the run-up to a general election which must be held next year.

Reports of record business failures in the past 12 months coupled with forecasts of higher unemployment and continued gloom in the housing market prompted calls for action from leading businessmen and worried Conservative politicians.

Treasury Minister John Maples said the government was committed to keeping the pound within its bands in the European Community's exchange rate mechanism (ÉRM) of currency management, adding that there was little it could do to improve the economy in the short term.

"Any levers of economic policy you pull have a lead time of a few months so I don't think there's much which one can do which has a short-term effect. We feel that we have put the right elements in place," Mr. Maples said in a radio interview.

A slow recovery was under way, he added.

Although the pound drifted down against the German mark and approached its lower ERM limit in thin trading, Mr. Maples said: "It looks as though we might well be able to sustain the pound at its present level and with present interest rates."

But he added that Chancellor . of the Exchequer Norman Lamont might resort to a politically damaging interest rate rise should that be needed. "If ... it is necessary to raise interest rates, he's made it clear he'll do so," Mr. Maples said.

Newspaper were filled with bad news for the government, which is depending heavily on its traditional image as a responsible economic manager to fight off a challenge from a resurgent opposition Labour Party in an election widely expected in April

With Labour entering 1992 six points ahead in the latest opinion poll, party leader Neil Kinnock claimed in his new year message that the recession had "shrivelled the economy and crushed confi-

Dun and Bradstreet, a business

#### Japan's central bank cuts key lending rate to 4.5%TOKYO (AP) — Japan's central bank cut its official discount rate Governor Yasushi Mieno denied that the bank's action was con-

Monday from five per cent to 4.5 per cent - its third reduction in six months to bolster a sagging

economy. Many analysts linked the central bank's move to next week's visit by U.S. President Bush, who is expected to seek action from Tokyo to reduce the huge trade surphis with the United States. Some Japanese officials have called for easier credit as a way to increase domestic demand for im-

There might have been strong political pressure on the central bank to lower its key lending rate before President Bush's visit ... because no specific pump-priming measures have emerged yet from the cabinet of (Prime Minister Kiichi) Miyazawa," said Susumu Nozaki, an economist with Tokai Bank.

The central bank "moved quickly now to avoid the impression of having yielded to foreign pressure," said Yukio Takahashi, an analyst at Wako Securities. But at a press conference Monday morning, Bank of Japan

nected to the visit.

The key lending rate is what the Bank of Japan charges on loans to commercial banks. The bank also cut the discount rate by half a percentage point July 1 and

"With the latest reduction' there will be a substantial impact on corporate investment, which has cooled recently," said Mr. Nozaki.

Stocks rose strongly on the announcement.

The rate cut at first strengthened the dollar, which had plunged against the Japanese ven since the U.S. discount rate was cut by one percentage point earlier this month.

But by late morning the dollar was trading around the level of Friday's close on expectations that the United States would follow suit and further cut interest

The central bank's rate cut is intended to spur Japan's economic growth, which has been sluggish recently.

Some analysts predict growth

next year will only be 2.2 per cer International Monetary Fun estimate of 3.8 per cent for 199 A Bank of Japan survey la month showed that major mani facturers have revised their for-

casts for pretax profits for the year ending March 3! sharp downward. "It is the judgment of the bar that this action will provide suff cient monetary conditions for achieving more balanced non-h

flationary growth," the central bank said in a statement, "Bearish sentiment is struct ing among investors as growt decelerates," said Trace Minist: Kozo Watanabe. "In such ef-

cumstances, we believe this met sure is timely." The finance ministry, which included a \$5.62 billion tax in crease in the fiscal 1992 budg: recently approved by the caping because of declining tax receipts

This cut in the discount rawill have a desirable impact on a facets of the economy," Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said in

welcomed the move.

## China's rents rise tomorrow in housing reform move

BEIJING (R) - China's leaders, battling a crippling budget deifict, will raise rents in Beijing and several other areas next year to push forward housing reform,

state television said Monday. The new system will go into effect Jan. 1 for residents of Beijing, the port city of Tianjin and the central province of Shaanxi, the television said.

Rent rises would be "slight," it However, one Beijing resident said he had already been told his rent would double from three vuan (56 U.S. cents) a month to

six yuan about (\$1). The television gave no details of the new system. It said new houses would have rents on a different scale from old houses, and homes would be available for

Massive subsidies for housing and food are helping to cripple China's budget, which this year will have a deficit several billion yuan above the target of 12.3 information agency, found that billion yuan (\$2.27 billion), the businesses were failing at a rate of chief cabinet spokesman told a news conference Monday.

Rents have been held extremely low since the communists came and this provides a very importo power in 1949.

The average urban worker makes more than 200 yuan (\$37) a month, including bonuses. Officials have said their goal is to make rents about five per cent of

Housing reform was first proposed a decade ago as a key part of economic revitalisation. It has been implemented slowly

in several areas. The government has moved cautiously for fear of sparking

inflation and social unrest. Moves to sell houses have foundered because of the extremely low rents that make purchases uneconomical.

Few people, want to invest in property because of the low standard of construction and because the concept of ownership still has no clear legal definition in the socialist state.

Peking's chief spokesman said-Monday that spurred by reform. and political stability, China's economy posted a banner year in 1991 — in happy contrast to depression and political chaos sweeping other parts of the

State Council (cabinet) spokesman Yuan Mu painted a rosy picture of record production, overfulfilled growth targets, stable prices and low inflation, and said 1992 would be even

fun party pack.

tant precondition and guarante for the stable development of or economy," he told a news confe

"This contrasts sharply withe slow growth of the wet. economy and the instability an turbulence in some other coutries and regions," he said. Mr. Yuan said Beijing's dec

sion to promote economic refor: while suppressing political disser after the failed pro-democrat protests of 1989 had helped Cain to set its economy on a course of 'normal development."

"From 1989 to 1991, we have basically achieved our targets f. economic retrenchment," he sai adding that the official austern programme set in place in la 1988 to curb massive inflation ha

achieved its goal. Mr. Yuan said China's gre national product (GNP) grows in 1991 would hit seven per cen far outstripping the cautious 4 per cent estimate state planae

Industrial production from es terprises outside of rural are: would grow by 13.2 per can more than double the early est mate of six per cent, he said. Mr. Yuan glossed over critic

set at the beginning of the year

problems plaguing the mamraoi and unproductive state secto which has been sucking up bi lions of dollars in state subsick

TALK OF THE TOWN

DISCOTHEQUE

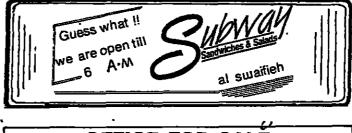
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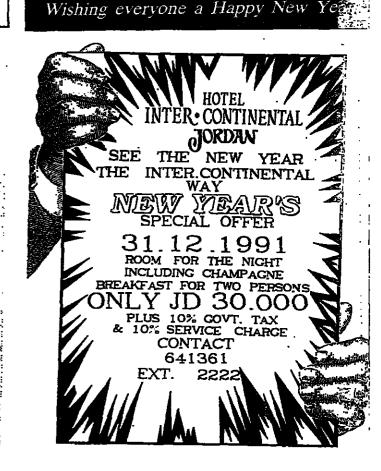
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## New commonwealth moves hesitantly into 1st major trial

MINSK, Byelorussia (R) — The Commonwealth of Independent Russian domination. States, frail successor to the old Soviet Union, faced its first trial discuss disputes on economic and

sin flew into the Byelorussian capital Minsk, insisting the new 11-nation coalition was strong.

Asked what issues threatened its future, Mr. Yeltsin, pivotal figure in the commonwealth, replied brusquely: "Nothing and no

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who has the power to make or break the community. appeared more sceptical. "We must wait and see what kind of commonwealth it is and only then talk about signing any joint charter," he told Interfax News Agen-

The commonwealth was formally founded nine days ago after the final collapse of the 69-yearold Soviet state. The move marked the end of President Mikhail Gorbachev's rule but powerful industrial and agricultuheld out hopes that the some form of alliance between Russia and Ukraine could be salvaged. That alliance now appears in-

creasingly in question. A spokesman for Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev said the republics, having thrown Jan. 2 could exert great strains on off the control of the centralised the Ukrainian economy. Higher

agree on a single candidate.

"Russia must not be our big brother," he said. "But there is Monday when leaders met to no way around a single economy

military policy.

Russian President Boris Yelt
Ukrainian President Kravchuk
shook two of the common-Ukrainian President Kravchuk wealth's central pillars before Monday's meeting started.

> On economic and defence policy, both of crucial importance to the international community, he appeared at loggerheads with his werful Russian counterpart and other republics.

Mr. Kravchuk told reporters the idea of a common rouble currency, agreed earlier by Commonwealth republics, now appeared to be a "fiction."

Ukraine, he said, would take measures to protect its economy when Russia freed prices to market levels on Jan. 2 - a day that may strain the fibre of the new community as well as arousing tensions within Russia itself.

He said Ukraine, with its ral base, would not join Russia in radical price reforms Thursday.

"We move to a market by a somewhat different path," he said. Ukrainian price reforms

were expected on Jan. 10. The liberalisation of prices on

MANILA (AP) - Former first lady Imelda Marcos was endorsed

Monday by her late husband's political party as its candidate for

president in next May's elections. Mrs. Marcos avoided making a

categorical announcement that she would run in the May 11

election but told about 300 members of the New Society

Movement that "what the people ask me to do, Imelda will do."

The delegates chanted "Imelda, Imelda" after unanimously approving resolutions declaring the widow of President Ferdinand

Marcos as leader of the party and its candidate to succeed President Corazon Aquino. Those who attended Monday's

convention were die-hard supporters of Mrs. Marcos, and the

outcome of the session was never in doubt. "I am open (to

running)," Mrs. Marcos told reporters afterward. "I am not

disregarding nor obsessing for it." Mrs. Marcos said she would

talk with other opposition presidential hopefuls, including

businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, Vice President

Salvador Laurel and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, to see if they could

Panic causes 8 deaths at U.S. rap game

NEW YORK (AP) - The subterranean gymansium where eight

people died in a crush to get inside for a charity basketball game was jammed with as many as 2,000 people beyond its legal capacity, police said Sunday. "It was oversold," said Mayor

David Dinkins. In addition to the eight deaths, dozens were

injured Saturday night at the charity eventy staged at City College

by rap music stars. After viewing videotape shot from the bleachers during the melee, police said the gym in Harlem held up

to 2,000 people more than its legal capacity of 2,730. Despite the

overcrowding, tickets were still being sold at the door, said Mario Salvaggi, a city police patrol chief. Charles Hirsch, chief medical

examiner, said the victims all were asphyxiated -- "squeezed

front to back" — in the stairwell leading to the basement gym.

They included three women and five men and ranging in age from

AJACCIO, Corsica (R) — Corsican separatists blew up 30 holiday villas on the East Coast of the island overnight after the

independence movement pledged to step up its campaign against

French rule. Police said a commando group first led a watchman

and his family to safety and then laid explosives in a holiday

village of 54 villas built near Sorbo Ocagnano. Bomb disposal

experts defused seven charges that had not yet gone off. The

attack was announced by members of the separatist movement

FLNC, who summoned journalists to a secret midnight news

conference to tell them the group was escalating its campaign.

NEW YORK (AP) — American media mogul Ted Turner was named Time magazine's Man of the Year Saturday by editors who cited the impact of his Cable News Network's (CNN) live

television coverage of events around the globe. Mr. Turner, 53,

was hailed as a "visionary" whose network changed the definition

of news "from something that has happened to something that is

happening at the very moment you are hearing of it," the news

magazine said. "For influencing the dynamic of events and

turning viewers in 150 countries into instant witnesses of history,

Robert Edward Turner III is Time's Man of the Year for 1991,

**Turner names Time's Man of the Year** 

Corsican separatists blow up villas

prices in Russia could move many Russians to buy up goods in tempt Ukrainian farmers to evade border controls and sell their produce on the territory of the neighbouring republic.

Ukraine is moving to introduce special coupons as a form of partial replacement currency to protect its stocks at a time when shortages are dogging the entire former Soviet Union.

Ukraine and Russia also disagree over the future of the armed forces that had served the

"All non-strategic forces in the Black Sea Fleet should belong to Ukraine," Mr. Kravchuk said before the meeting.

Mr. Yeltsin, who moved into Gorbachev's Kremlin office four days ago, refuses to accept this. Historically, the Black Sea Fleet was always Russian. But probably Ukraine has some right to lay claim to some part of it," he said.

The Black Sea Fleet, a vital arm of what was once the Soviet Navy, is based in the Ukrainian port of Sevastopol.

Mr. Yeltsin suggested the Soviet Armed Forces should be reformed into commonwealth forces over a transitional period of about three years.

the commonwealth should retain gures.

a united system of armed forces. But Ukraine plans its own army Ukrainian shops. It would also and agrees to co-operation only over strategic weapons based on its territory.

While accepting that Mr. Yeltsin should have central control over the nuclear arms based in four republics, Mr. Kravchuk is demanding more clearly defined veto rights over their use.

The talks appeared to make little progress in the initial twohour-spell set aside to cover a 10-point agenda ranging from fi-nance to economic reform and military matters.

Leaders agreed only on the first agenda point — the creation of co-ordinating bodies - before adjouring for a half-hour break. Talks then resumed.

The leaders were also expected to discuss a bloody conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, a largely Armenian enclave situation within Azerbaiian and ruled from the Azerbaijani capital, Baku.

TASS News Agency said an Azerbaijani tank column had taken up position on the edge of the territory's capital. Stepanakert, during the night and was shelling the city.

It said people had been killed The Russian president insists in the shelling, but gave no fi-

## 'Georgian rebels to storm parliament'

TBILISI, Georgia (R) — A said: "Yes." senior Georgian rebel commander said Monday his forces were preparing to storm the Trans-Rustaveli Avenue from parlia-Caucasian republic's parliament ment, Major Lanchava said his where President Zviad Gam- National Guards were being sakhurdia has been under siege' backed by the Mkhedrioni, an for more than a week.

Fighting raged along Rustaveli Avenue, the main thoroughfare supporters. in the capital, Tbilisi, through the

But it was not clear whether rebel National Guards, backed by calibre machineguns were visible the shadowy Mkhedrioni (horse- at strategic locations. men) opposition group, had the power to force their way into the and others in distinctive black fortified complex.

told Reuters opposition forces launchers, automatic rifles and had launched a successful other weapons. counter-attack through the city centre after losing some positions to government forces fighting from their base in the parliament.

Asked if they were now pre-

PHNOM PENH (AP) - A hated Ham.

Khmer Rouge leader who nar-

rowly escaped being lynched last

month returned under heavy

guard Monday and joined the first

government-guerrilla meeting on

carrying out a peace treaty to end

The Cambodian factions and

five world powers urged the Un-

ited Nations to send its full

peacekeeping force to Cambodia

as soon as possible because recent

unrest has threatened the accord,

U.N. negotiators worked against rolling."

the clock to carve out a peace '

But Secretary-General Javier

Perez de Cuellar, who retires on

Dec. 31 after two five-year terms

in office, left little hope Sunday

that a final agreement would be

completed by then.
"We don't expect a ceremony

here on Dec. 31 (when) bells will

ring and flags will be raised," he

said of the talks between the

government and the rebel Fara-

bundo Marti National Liberation

Instead, he said he was aiming

at "substantive irreversible"

accords that could be signed in

Front (FMLN).

their 13-year-old civil war.

Speaking outside rebel headquarters at the opposite end of underground opposition group which claims several thousand

At least half a dozen armoured personnel carriers were stationed on the avenue and some large-

Rebels, some wearing helmets woollen hats, crouched at corners Rebel guard Major Gela Lanchava with rocket-and grenade-

"We have enough equipment,"

Major Lanchava said. "The Mkhedrioni brought this and are fighting with us.

Khmer Rouge leader back in Phnom Penh

An estimated 10,000 U.N.

peacekeepers are to be dispatch-

ed to Cambodia to monitor the

truce and disarm the factions but

so far only a small advance con-

The meeting at the royal palace

was the first on Cambodian soil of

the Supreme National Council

(SNC). The reconciliation body

comprises leaders of the

Vietnamese-government and its

said guerrilla spokesman Pol guerrilla opponents the Khmer President Khieu Samphan.

Movement seen in Salvador peace talks

He said the arrival Sunday of

"Clearly President Cristiani's

The New Year's Eve deadline is

presence here makes a huge dif-

ference in terms of speed of

decisions," Mr. De Soto said.

self-imposed by all parties who

wish to see Mr. Perez de Cuellar,

a Peruvian, finish the talks before

his successor, Dr. Boutros Ghali

of Egypt, assumes office Wednes-

Progress, according to diplo-

mats, was achieved in each of the

major disputed areas, with none

trating on reduction of the Salva-

doran Armed Forces, creation of

Negotiators have been concen-

of them totally resolved.

Pakistani tribunal exonerates

politicians in alleged rape

tingent has arrived.

UNITED NATIONS (R) — movement, the ball is rolling, it is

accord that would end El Salva- Salvadoran President Alfredo

His chief mediator, Alvaro De a new national police force and

Soto, told reporters after talks economic and social issues such

dor's civil war by New Year's Cristiani was crucial.

had and handed it over to us." As he spoke, rebels were following up the counter attack around the Hotel Tbilisi, their headquarters before it was destroyed by fire.

"Kutaisi, Kutaisi, Kutaisi," they shouted as a battalion from the provincial Georgian city of that name moved into action, crossing Rustaveli Avenue and advancing towards the Hotel Tbilisi.

"They (Gamsakhurdia forces) went into attack in the morning and occupied some of our positions. A few minutes ago we took them back," Major Lanchava

Mr. Gamsakhurdia's men, who have been resisting rebel attacks for more than a week, widened their area of control after opposition military leaders had started "Jaba loseliani (the Mkhed- to unite against him and called for paring to storm the parliament, he rioni leader) took everything he his resignation at the weekend.

Rouge and two non-Communist

poned twice — first after the attempt on Khieu Samphan's life,

then after anti-corruption pro-tests by students and civil ser-

vants erupted into riots two

A Nov. 27 meeting was cancel-led after a mob shouting

"murderer" stormed the Khmer

Rouge villa in Phnom Penh and

nearly lynched Khmer Rouge

The FMLN has been reluctant

to lay down its arms until it is

convinced the 53,000-member

army, accused of gross human

rights abuses, is restructured and

security forces dominated by the

The government wants im-

mediate demobilisation of the

advisers in the negotiations.

sidering a major reconstruction

plan for El Salvador after accords

were signed that would include

Japan and European Community

army are phased out.

The meeting had been post-

factions.

weeks ago.

#### Fur coats for the homeless — in sunny

stay at Baqueira through next

California? SANTA ANA, California (R) — More than 30 women were walking around this posh Los Angeles suburb Tuesday sporting fur coats. It's not an unusual sight in

F (10 C). The coats, they said, made them feel good, and when you have no money and no home and it is Christmas, feeling good is important. "It's always been a fantasy to have a coat. Just wearning it makes me feel spe-cial," said Simone Leone, who was draped in a full length mink. Bettie Williams agreed. "This (coat) makes me feel important, and I needed that," she said. The coats-were delivered to the women as a surprise as they sat

MILAN (R) - "Cicciolina," Ita-

temperature averages about 65 degrees Fahrenheit (18 degrees Celsius) and rarely falls below 50

Amid a day of talks between various groupings of the combatants, a high-level party of U.S. officials spoke to Mr. Cristiani as well as ambassadors from Mexico, Colombia, Spain and Venezuela, who have been acting as In an effort to give momentum to the talks, Western diplomats down to dinner at a local shelter. said the United States was con-

# Cicciolina passes

who made a fortune in movies, is returning to the private life of a porn star. But those quirky Itahan voters who elected her five years ago need not worry. Her protege Moana Pozzi, who has co-starred with Cicciolina in many hardcore films, will be running to succeed her in the hallowed halls of the Rome's Chamber of Deputies. Cicciolina, (little cuddly one) whose real name is Ilona Staller, announced through her manager that she would not seck re-election to the seat she won on the Radical Party ticket. Ms. Staller, Pozzi, and manager Riccardo Schicchi last September founded the "Party Of Love," whose stated object is to "bring love to parliament." Mr. Schicchi, whose business as poru entrepreneur and agent has received massive pubilicity since Ms. Staller was elected, said Ms. Pozzi would run in Milan for a seat in parliament in spring elections. "I believe that this society needs more love,' Ms. Pozzi, wearing a low-cut dress, told a news conference called to announce her candidacy. "I will do everything physically possible to bring love into parliament."

#### China issues 'birth control cards' to migrant workers

PEKING (R) — China has enacted new rules requiring millions of migrant workers to carry

#### Yugoslav army keeps **World News in Brief** up attack on Karlovac **Imeida Marcos to take over party**

army kept up a relentless bom-bardment of the key Croatian town of Karlovac into the night, turning it into the main flashpoint of fighting in the breakaway re-

"In the past few days, Karlovac has become the main battlefield in Croatia," Croatian radio said. Karlovac, 55 kilometres south west of Zagreb, is a crucial link between the Croatian capital and

Adriatic coast. Police in Karlovac told Reuters constantly bombarded throughout Sunday and explosions were continuing into the night.

ZAGREB (R) — The Yugoslav and then 30 or 40 shells come down at once," the duty officer at the police station said, "They are falling everywhere on every part of the town.

> "It gets quiet just long enough for people to feel secure and leave their shelters."

The offensive against Karlovac and rocket attacks on Zagreb's suburbs this weekend marked a serious escalation in fighting between Croatia and the Serb-led the republic's south, including the federal army.

Croatia said surface-to-surface missiles fired by the army were by telephone that the town was responsible for six loud explosions in Zagreb Sunday. Western journalists visited the site of two of the explosions and saw craters "It's quiet for about 10 minutes and damage to houses.

### End of an era comes for U.S. army in Europe

WASHINGTON (AP) - The 150,000 U.S. military personnel U.S. army has quietly begun an are to remain in Europe, but exodus from Europe — a shift in budget pressures may force even recent weeks that brought home steeper cuts.
40.000 soldiers. 48.000 spouses Most of the soldiers leave 40,000 soldiers, 48,000 spouses and children, 10,000 pets and 15,000 cars.

The reduction in forces, made possible by the end of the cold war but put on hold during the Gulf war, is in full swing.

Some days, as many as 500 military men and women leave their posts. No one replaces

Gen. Gordon Sullivan, the strategy, which relies more on reporters recently. "The way we forces based at home to deal with are deployed now just doesn't

crises around the globe.
"It is a different world in 1992 than the world of the last 40 years," the four-star general said in an interview. "We would be foolish not to respond."

Plans for the "drawdown" of army forces in Europe means that by 1995, its four divisions of 213,000 soldiers will be slashed to two divisions made up of 92,000 troops left European posts, most men and women. Overall, some in Germany, by the end of 1991.

Europe for assignments in the United States if they're not being released from active duty, offi-Some critics of the military's

involvement overseas say the moves can't come fast enough. "I don't think anybody thinks that there's going to be ... Warsaw Pact troops rolling across the Rhine, and yet we till have army's top general, said the move massive numbers of people still reflects the reduced Soviet threat sitting around there," Rep. Patriand changed U.S. military cia Schroeder, D-Colorado, told

> make sense. The army had planned to begin moving tens of thousands troops homeward much earlier, but operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm pulled 76,000 troops from Europe to Saudi Arabia.

Now, transfers have increased in the last weeks of 1991. Army officials say 40,000

son-in-law of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan of charges that heplotted the gang-rape of a close friend of former Prime Minister

Benazir Bhutto. The woman's father, prominent politicians Shaukat Hvatt. vowed Monday to carry out the death sentence that a tribal council passed on Irfanullah Marwat and others accused of involvement in

the November incident. Veena Hyatt, 38, accused Marwat of orchestrating the nightlong attack by five masked gunmen. Mr. Marwat also is an adviser to chief Minister Jam Saddiq Ali of Sindh province, Ms. Bhutto's political enemy.

Ms. Bhutto has contended the attack was a "surrogate rape" of her and was aimed at diminishing the influence of her left-leaning Pakistan People's Party (PPP). be closed, but God is great and The attack occurred during a sees all. Inshallah (God willing), two-week crackdown on party justice will be done," he said. activists in which hundreds of her

attack, but Ms. Hyatt denounced the tribunal as a ploy to conceal Mr. Marwat's involvement and forbade his daughter to testify.

In the ruling issued late Sun-day, Justice Abdul Rahim Kazi cleared Mr. Marwat of involvement and said he did not have with Ms. Bhutto. enough evidence to determine whether a rape had occurred.

In addition, he said, "it can be assumed that there would hardly be any political motive behind the alleged incident."

Ms. Hyatt on Monday reiterated his contempt for the tribun-al. "I said from the beginning I had no faith in a tribunal that had been set up by those who are supposedly in charge of law and order in Sindh," he said.

"The eyes of government may He referred to the death sentsupporters were arrested. Mr. ence on the rape participants Marwat vehemently denied the issued two weeks ago by elders of

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—
A judicial tribunal has cleared the testimony from police about the Ms. Hyatt said she was dragged by the hair from room to room of

her home and raped repeatedly by five masked men during a 12-hour ordeal. She said Mr. Marwat's name was mentioned by her attackers, who repeatedly asked her about her friendship

Ms. Hyatt said they wanted to know why she visited Ms. Bhutto and what she did while with her. For almost two weeks, demon-

strations were held daily throughout Pakistan to protest the alleged attack on Ms. Hyatt and what feminists decribed as an increase in politically motivated attacks on women.

Ms. Bhutto says several female party workers have been sexually assaulted to send a message to the party leadership.

Pakistan's penalty for rape is stoning to death, but the law requires there be four male witnesses to the rape for a conviction or that a signed confession be made by the rapist.

## New Vietnam constitution removes basic Socialist rights

HANOI (R) — Vietnam Monday unveiled a draft constitution that reaffirms one-party Communist rule but removes basic Socialist rights and formalises free market economic reforms. The document, prompted by the worldwide collapse of social-

ism, aims to increase the power of the elected National Assembly while curbing the influence of the Communist Party, officials and a member of the assembly said. The draft, replacing the current

1980 constitution, is expected to be ratified by the National Assembly in April. "Over the last decade, the world has witnessed profound and all-round changes," Nguyen Huy Thuc, a member of the Constitution Editing Committee,

told a Hanoi news conference announcing the draft. "Many articles and provisions in the present constitution are no longer suitable and appropriate

He said the revised constitution would be a basis for new laws that "will help us to get our country out of all crises and difficulties and achieve our objective namely socialism as our people have chosen."

However, the draft formalises capitalist-style economic reforms and removes basic socialists rights guaranteed under the previous constitution, including the right to work, to housing, free health care and eduction.

"We deemed that we are not able to realise or implement those articles," Mr. Thuc said.

For example, he said, "even among state employees, only about 30 per cent are provided with houses by the state. So if we still maintain the articles that citizens are entitled to housing, I think it

is no longer appropriate."
the draft says the state can offer exemptions on school and for renewal and reform of our hospital fees and encourages foreign companies to do business.

The assembly will elect a president as head of state who will also have increased powers and the right, along with the Council of State which he heads, to issue decrees between assembly ses-

The draft formalises the principles of open market economic reforms first adopted in the 1980s while stating that the economy remains "Socialist-orientated." It protects the assets of foreign

companies, guaranteeing them against nationalisation, and formalises the right of foreigners to live and work in Vietnam. The draft says the state retains ownership of land, but it can

allocate plots to organisations and individuals for long-term use and people are entitled to bequeath land or transfer that right. of Vietnamese to travel freely

The draft formalises the right overseas, to invest money abroad and to make direct contacts with

citizens to build housing. Although it has begun to attract private foreign invest-ment, Vietnam's economy has suffered greatly from years of Socialist mismanagement followed by a cut in aid from the former Soviet Bloc.

Mr. Thuc said the draft aimed at "political renewal ... but we are not going to carry out political reform in a sweeping manner. We want to have firm steps and measures in order to ensure political stability inside the country."

A National Assembly official

told Reuters Friday that the constitutional changes had been prompted by events in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, where Communist regimes have tumbled.

events so that we can avoid disorder and chaos in our country," Tran Xuan Anh said.

The draft was intended to reduce Communist Party interfer- a cabinet.

"We have learned from the

ence in administration and make government more efficient.

In future, Mr. Anh said, the party would continue to set the general political line but lawmaking was the job of the National Assembly and the party must obey the law.

The assembly, although in theory the highest state body, has existed merely to rubber stamp Communist Party directives.

Communist abuse of power and influence-peddling has caused widespread resentment and the party has purged thousands of members in recent years in an effort to clean up its

Under the draft, the National Assembly is to convene three times a year instead of two and elect fewer, better qualified, de-

It will appoint a prime minister with greatly increased decisionmaking powers, who will choose

# Spanish king cuts short holiday

BAQUEIRA, Spain (AP) — King Juan Carlos cut short his annual skiing holiday after twisting his knee on the slopes of this Pyrenean resort. An out-of-control skier barreled into Juan Carlos, knocking him down and causing what appeared to be a minor injury to his right knee, a royal spokesman told the Spanish News Agency (EFF). The spokesman said the king was resting in his vacation home near the northeastern Spanish resort but planned to return to Madrid for K-rays. Queen Sofia and youngest Daughter Cristina spent the morning on the slopes. The royals had originally planned to

southern California where they are worn as a mark of prestige rather than to keep out the cold - but these women are homeless. The furs, all used, were a gift to the women from a local furrier. Ted Bizakis, who explained that he wanted to do something for the homeless at Christmas. The women didn't care that fur coast aren't a dire necessity during southern California's winter, when the

# political torch

ly's controversial parliamentarian

"birth control cards" to prove they are obeying the one-child-per-family policy, the official Chi-na Daily said. The cards, to in-clude information on the bearer's marital status, birth record and use of birth control, must be presented before a migrant worker may take a job, seek a business licence or apply for a residence permit. They will be issued to most of China's estimated 70 miles lion migrant workers, who in the past have often managed to evade the government's birth control teams to have forbidden second. third and fourth babies, the newspaper said. Drawn by the promise of a better life in booming coastal regions, million of migrants from China's hinterland have flooded into eastern cities such as Peking, Shanghai and Canton to take temporary jobs on construction projects and in factories.

#### the magazine concluded. Mr. Turner, whose Atlanta-based Turner Broadcasting System Inc. also operates Turner Network Television and Cable superstation WTBS, said he was "extremely honoured" by the award, but credited his employees for his company's success. "These dedicated individuals share a common goal of informing, entertaining and inspiring audiences around the world with quality programming," he said. "In accepting this, honour, I salute their efforts." **Actress Cassandra Harris dies** LOS ANGELES (R) - Australian actress Cassandra Harris, who played ex-mistress of her real-life husband, Pierce Borsnan, in the U.S. television series Remington Steele, died Saturday of cancer, her publicity agent said. Harris, 39, waged a four-year battle against ovarian cancer and Brosnan stopped working to care for her and their three children, the publicist, Dick Guttman, said. She died at the University of Southern California Cancer Centre in Los Angeles, where she had been treated for several weeks. "Her courage and strength during her illness made it easier for those who loved her," Guttman said. Harris appeared with Roger Moore in the James Bond film For Your Eyes Only in 1981. Harris was a child actress in Sydney and met Brosnan when she went to London to join the National Theatre. In between stage appearances, she had leading roles in British television productions, including All Out At Kangaroo Valley and The Boy Merlin

series. She played Steele's ex-mistress, Felicia, in the television

series Remington Steele, but she limited her acting in the United

States so she could bring up her children, Charlotte, 19,

Christopher, 18, and Sean, seven.